THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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SOUTHWEST MONSOON MAKES ONSET OVER NICOBAR ISLANDS

Southwest monsoon made its onset over the Nicobar Islands, India's southernmost region, on Sunday, the India Meteorological Department said

TO REACH MAINLAND INDIA BY MAY 31

As per the weather office, the southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of the Maldives, South Bay of Bengal, Nicobar Islands and South Andaman Sea on Sunday. The monsoon is expected to reach Kerala on May 31 as against June 8 last year. Large parts of the country are battling a brutal heatwave, which has shattered multiple temperature records | P7

RED ALERT IN THREE KERALA DISTRICTS

- Last month, the weather office had forecast above-normal rain in the monsoon season in India with favourable La Nina conditions
- Rain lashed many parts of Kerala on Sunday, prompting authorities to issue red alerts in three districts — Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Idukki and orange alerts in four — T'puram, Kollam, Alappuzha, and Ernakulam

52%

OF INDIA'S NET CULTIVATED AREA DEPEND ON MONSOON RAINS FOR IRRIGATION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

U.P. DIARIES

NO PUSHPAK VIMAN FOR THE AYODHYA-WAASI

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
EDITOR

AYODHYA: "Ram maryada purushottam, Rajputo ka Rajput," says the man in saffron regalia as a throwaway line, while putting a tika on those walking towards the temple. Whoever thought of Ram in caste terms? That idiom-like Hindi phrasing combines the old philosophical ideal with a medieval-modern folk twist. Ram, the ideal man, is also "the Rajput among Rajputs".

In the polling booth-bound Ayodhya of 2024, much of it boils down to just that. The caste equations of candidates. The mammoth new temple notwithstanding, the Ayodhya that is voting today is not quite the Ayodhya of the Ramayana. The various textual versions of the epic were anyway accessible only to the privileged scholar. For the ordinary Indian, it was mostly received as oral literature—subject to the fashion and predilections of the day. So it figures that, in today's rendition, local caste factors hold as much sway as any grand project of religious-cultural reclamation.

For the rest of India, the Ram temple may have held out high symbolism, but right in the heart of Ayodhya, what they think about while queuing up in the heat wave to exercise their franchise is how to try and turn the little epics of their own lives towards small victories. The constituency, unlike the district, still bears the charming but humdrum name Faizabad, and they have no Pushpak viman that can take their ambitions soaring beyond the question of rozi-roti, or basic economic sufficiency.

DECODE LS POLLS '24 DECIDE

LAST OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

That acquires some paradoxical resonance when you consider that whether the BJP wins or not depends as much on Ram and the Modi and Yogi factor "as it depends on Karl Marx". The Lok Sabha contest is between sitting MP Lallu Singh of the BJP and sitting Bikapur MLA Awadhesh Prasad of the SP.

Will Lallu Singh overcome anti-incumbency and triumph a third time in a row? That could hinge on how many votes Arvind Sen of the Communist Party of India pulls away.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Stakes high for BJP in 5th phase of LS elections today

Prominent leaders including Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Rahul in fray

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls on Monday for 49 seats in six states and two Union territories will decide the electoral fate of several prominent leaders, including Union ministers.

BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Piyush Goyal, and Rajiv Pratap Rudy are in the fray as are several other prominent figures including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Among the Union ministers, Rajnath Singh is eyeing a fourth term from Lucknow, where he is locked in a fight with Samajwadi Party's Ravidas Mehrotra. Smriti Irani is seeking a second term from Amethi, while Piyush Goyal is contesting from Mumbai North. Goyal has so far been elected to the Upper House of Parliament but this time, the BJP has fielded him against Bhushan Patil of the Congress.

PHASE 5 FACTOIDS

49 seats in 6 states & 2 UTs

8.95 cr eligible voters, of which 4.26 cr are women

9.47 lakh polling officials across 94,732 polling stations

14 seats of Uttar Pradesh, **13** of Maharashtra, **7** of West Bengal, **5** seats each of Odisha and Bihar, **3** of Jharkhand, and 1 seat each in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will go to polls

35 Assembly Constituencies of the Odisha Legislative Assembly will also go to polls on Monday

NEXT PHASE OF ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MAY 25

Union ministers Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti are contesting from Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun and Fatehpur, respectively.

The stakes are high for the BJP as the party had won 32 of these 49 seats in 2019.

Rahul Gandhi, who has contested from Wayanad in Kerala, is also in the fight for Rae Bareli.

Among other candidates, Union ministers Shantanu Thakur and Kaushal Kishor are contesting from Bangaon (West Bengal) and Mohanlalganj (Uttar Pradesh, respectively).

In Ladakh, Congress candidate Tsering Namgyal, BJP's Tashi Gyalson, and Independent candidate and NC rebel Haji Hanifa Jan are locked in a keen contest.

Voting will also be held in 35 assembly constituencies in Odisha, where BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is among the candidates. Patnaik is contesting from two assembly segments — Hinjili under the Aska Lok Sabha seat in Ganjam district and Kantabanji under the Bolangir parliamentary constituency.

Polling for 23 states and Union territories and 379 seats has been completed so far. The sixth phase of polls will be held on May 25.

daCunha/AB/944

INTERVIEW

BJP will win more seats than in 2019: J P Nadda

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will win more seats in this election than it did in 2019 and will reach its target of 370 seats, a confident party president J P Nadda told this newspaper in an interview.

He said the party will win many seats in south India this time as a result of its systematic electioneering and the works done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in the past 10 years. "We are getting massive support from across the nation. We are going to break certain myths about the BJPs' prospects in the southern states," he said.

He claimed that the INDI alliance will not cross the 150-mark. People are voting to give Modi a record third term to see the 'Viksit-Bharat' by 2047, the BJP chief said. Nadda claimed that the saffron party has already won 270 seats in the four phases of elections held so far, and that more will be added in the the upcoming phases.

Nadda said the Modi government has brought down inflation to below 5% and created great job opportunities. He rejected Kejriwal's claim that Modi will step down once he reaches 75 years of age next year. "There is no such provision in the BJP's constitution," he said. P8

CHOPPER CARRYING IRAN PREZ CRASHES P9

AI Exp flight catches fire mid-air, all safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ALL the 179 passengers, including two infants and 6 crew members on board an Air India Express flight from Bengaluru to Kochi, had a miraculous escape when one of its engines caught fire after taking off from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Saturday night.

The flight, IX 1132 – which took off at 10.49 pm, returned to Bengaluru and had an emergency landing on the South Runway at 11.12 pm. All the passengers were evacuated safely. An emergency was declared at the airport and the South Runway was shut for over three hours.

According to a spokesperson of Bangalore International Airport Ltd, "On May 18, IX 1132 made an emergency landing at Bengaluru airport at 11.12 pm due to a reported fire in one of the engines. A full-scale emergency was declared and the fire was promptly extinguished on landing. All 179 passengers and six crew members have been successfully evacuated from the aircraft."

In the rush to get out of the aircraft after landing, at least 15 flyers suffered cuts and bruises. Many were taken by ambulance to the Aster Medical Centre on the airport premises and administered first-aid.

A source said the engine of the Airbus A320 aircraft caught fire after the plane flew for a few minutes.

CONTINUED ON: P2

CITYZENS TO THE FOUR

Manchester City, nicknamed Cityzens, created English football history as they became the first side to win four league titles in a row. A look...

CLASSY FODEN HELPS CITY

Phil Foden, voted as the PL's Player of The Year before the match, eased the City nerves with a double strike in the first 20 minutes. West Ham competed gamely but the City juggernaut wouldn't be stopped

Phil Foden (c) scored a double as Man City beat West Ham 3-1 to win the EPL title | AP

KLOPP'S FINAL GAME

Elsewhere, Jurgen Klopp's final game as Liverpool boss formed the backdrop as the Reds were comfortable winners over Wolves | P11

SO NEAR YET SO FAR FOR ARSENAL

The North Londoners, chasing their first league title since 2004, trailed early on, but got the win they needed. However, they needed City to slip up to pip them. But Manchester City were in no mood to oblige

State govt completes 1 yr today

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AS the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government completes one year in office on Monday, it has big challenges ahead to tackle, especially stopping alleged corruption in the government and lack of coordination between ministers and party MLAs.

Though a milestone, the government is not celebrating the anniversary in a big manner as the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha elections is still in force. The plan is to hold the celebrations after the general election results on June 4.

But old issues may surface again to haunt the government and it is interesting to see how the CM will tackle them, said political analysts.

A couple of months before the Lok Sabha polls, former minister H Anjaneya had alleged that Siddaramaiah's present government is not as effective as his first tenure between 2013 and 2018 as he has no free hand. P4

Mentally ill woman spends 3 days with dead mom, dies later

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

A 32-year-old mentally ill woman spent three days with the body of her dead mother before being rescued by the police at Gopadi village in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district. But she, Pragathi Shetty, too died on Saturday, failing to respond to treatment.

Pragathi's mother Jayanthi Shetty, who was 62 years old, was suspected to have died some time early last week. Late on Thursday night, the neighbours smelt a bad stench coming from the house and called Jayanthi's mobile phone, but it went unanswered.

They then informed Gopady Gram Panchayat president Suresh Shetty, who alerted the police.

When the police forced open the door of the house, they found Jayanthi's body and Pragathi lying unconscious next to her deceased mother.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Rahul's victory margin is the point of interest in family bastion Rae Bareli

PREETHA NAIR @ Rae Bareli

FROM keeping the six-decade-long tryst with the Nehru-Gandhi family to handing defeat to Indira Gandhi, Rae Bareli has played a part in shaping major political events in the country. With the Congress fielding Rahul Gandhi from the seat this time, his election is considered a done deal. The only question is about the margin of victory. Considered a 'safe seat' for the Congress, Rae Bareli has been its citadel in the worst of times, barring Indira's defeat in 1977.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

For the same reason, the Congress's main rival, the BJP, has been attacking Rahul for running away from another family pocket borough, Amethi. However, the Congress has been projecting the family's emotional connect and legacy as the reasons for his contest from Rae Bareli, which was represented by his mother Sonia Gandhi for two decades from 2004.

As for the BJP, its candidate and state minister Dinesh Pratap Singh is fighting for the second time from Rae Bareli. Singh lost to Sonia in the 2019 polls. While the BJP's campaign was focused more on the Ram temple and the Modi government's welfare schemes, rebellion from the party's Rae Bareli Sadar MLA Aditi Singh was an internal challenge. "Some leaders have been bickering over ticket distribution. Dinesh Singh is also facing trouble from his constituency over land deals. The party should have fielded a stronger candidate," said a BJP leader.

The Congress ran a high-octane campaign steered by party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi to build the narrative around the Nehru-Gandhi family's 100-year connection to Rae Bareli. Sonia's speech also struck a chord with the people. "It was an emotional speech. This is a Gandhi family stronghold and the result is a foregone conclusion. We expect that Rahul will win by a margin of 5 lakh votes," says Monu Misra, who runs a tea shop.

Another resident Jitendra Yadav talks about the development works by the Gandhi family. "They brought a Rail Coach Factory, National Thermal Power Corporation, AIIMS, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udan Academy and Footwear Design Development Institute among others," he says.

Samajwadi Party leader Y P Yadav, who contested the 2022 Assembly polls, says: "Workers from both parties are working to ensure a record victory for Rahul."

The Gandhi family's association with the constituency began in 1952, with the election of Feroze Gandhi, Indira's husband. Later Indira and Sonia represented it in the Lok Sabha.

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

Rahul Gandhi (left) and Dinesh Pratap Singh

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

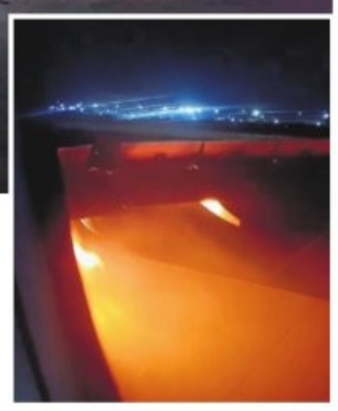
BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 20.05.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Dwadasi 2.44 pm
• Nakshatra: Chittha 4.53 am • Moon in Tula Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST
Scattered tstorms late

Sunrise 05.53 am
Sunset 06.39 pm
Moonrise 04.02 pm
Moonset 03.25 am

• 15 PASSENGERS SUFFER INJURIES IN A RUSH TO LEAVE THE BURNING PLANE



The Bengaluru-Kochi Air India Express flight makes an emergency landing at KIA after it caught fire after take-off

Passengers were crying, praying as flight landed

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AS IX 1132 descended towards Bengaluru, fear and helplessness enveloped the passengers, who prayed loudly and fervently for a safe landing.

The Air India Express flight which caught fire mid-air after taking off from Bengaluru to Kochi, had 179 passengers and six crew members, none of whom suffered major injuries. However, 15 passengers suffered cuts, bruises and injuries in the mad rush to leave the burning aircraft after it landed at KIA.

Passengers relived the horrifying experience of fire bellowing from the wing of the aircraft. Edy Anthony, a native of Aluva who works as a teacher at Dhanbad, suffered injuries to his back and knee after people fell on him as he slid down the evacuation slide. He told TNIE, "My wife Jolly and I were seated on the right side of the aircraft. I heard a loud sound which kept getting louder. The flight started wobbling from side to side. We alerted a cabin crew member but he told us not to worry, and that it could be a bird hit. Suddenly, we could see fire below the wing and it was becoming bigger. We showed him and he

Edy Antony, who suffered internal injuries, with his wife Jolly

rushed to alert the pilot."

In a while, the pilot announced a return to Bengaluru. "It was a traumatising experience, our lives were at risk," said Jolly, a nursing superintendent at Dhanbad.

"Many around us were crying, including a few college girls from Kerala."

The evacuation slides were deployed from emergency exits, and flyers rushed to slide down and get away from the aircraft.

"Though I hit the bottom safely, I couldn't get up as people kept landing on me. I suffered a knee injury and a blow on my back. It wasn't only me, at least 15 more people suffered minor injuries in the rush."

Dr Jeffy Cherry, a dentist in Thrissur, and his mother CM Shantha had come to Bengaluru on Saturday morning to attend the funeral of a relative, and were returning home. "Our flight had a delayed departure of 10.50pm as it had come late from Pune. Most of the flyers were Kerala natives going home. I was in the middle seat on the left side of the aircraft. I could hear a 'thud' from the right side which kept increasing gradually. Suddenly, a little girl said aloud that she could see fire from the wing of the aircraft. We rushed to look and could see the fire clearly."

The crew advised us to return to our seats. "When the pilot made the emergency landing announcement, there was shock and fear. Passengers were praying and many started crying loudly," he added.

The emergency exits were opened and though passengers were guided on its usage, there were no queues. "Many started pushing ahead and rushing out. Some were trying to take their luggage from the overhead compartments, but were directed to leave it behind and rush," the dentist said. The elderly were a bit worried about sliding down but were reassured by the crew and helpers waiting below. The passengers were immediately put on board a shuttle bus and taken to the terminal, he said.

FLYERS WAIT TILL ALL PAX ACCOMMODATED

Passengers were safely escorted to T-2 at KIA for the night, where they had to wait until alternative arrangements were made to reach Kochi. Having survived the trauma, they did not find much support from the airlines staffers. There were also some altercations between the staff and passengers. "We had to wait in the space allotted to us on some plastic chairs. Many elderly passengers were struggling," said Dr Jeffy Cherry, a passenger. Flyer Edy Anthony charged the airline staff of being completely irresponsible, with no one one in authority willing to take charge of the situation. "We were made to wait in a designated area. We demanded access to a lounge to stay the night but were denied. It was insensitive. We had paid a huge sum for the ticket," charged Edy. He said the airline had initially planned to send the passengers by a 3am flight on Sunday but flyers refused. "With our hand baggage stuck inside the flight, we didn't have any cash or cards and our mobile phones were running out of charge. We literally had nothing on us, so we refused to take that flight. Our baggage was handed to us around 4am," he said.

Passenger flights are usually category 'A' aircraft. Even if one engine fails, the aircraft can easily fly to its destination using the other engine. The engine fire extinguishing system on board has two fire extinguisher bottles with controls in the cockpit, which are generally used when fire breaks out in the engine. When the engine caught fire on Saturday night, the flight was closer to Bengaluru, which is why the pilot opted to return so that any uncontrolled fire could be doused on the ground. They must have used the bottles to douse the fire enroute

Captain Mohan Ranganathan, aviation expert

Panic on flight as passengers see rising flames

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE pilot informed the Air Traffic Control at Bengaluru airport about the situation at 11.02 pm. The ATC declared an emergency at 11.03 pm. The engine that caught fire was switched off immediately with operations carried out only with the left engine. The flight landed at 11.12 pm," the source added.

The firefighting unit and medical teams were kept ready. "As soon as the flight landed on the South Runway, the crew on board and evacuation teams safely escorted all the passengers outside," he said.

There was much panic, tears and many prayers said inside the flight as passengers were repeatedly watching the fire rise higher from their seats.

After the flight reached here, the emergency exits on the left of the flight were used and passengers came down the evacuation slides (inflatable one). Some were injured in the process. They later ran for up to 150 metre from the aircraft to a safe spot.

An Air India Express spokesperson said, "As flames were seen emanating from the right engine after takeoff, the Bengaluru-Kochi flight elected to return and carried out a precautionary landing at Bengaluru. The ground services also reported flames, resulting in an evacuation. The crew accomplished an evacuation with no injuries to any guests. A thorough investigation with the regulator shall be accomplished to establish the cause."

The airline said that all passengers were provided accommodation for the night. "Some passengers opted to stay at the airport, while others at hotels nearby where they were accommodated," the spokesperson added.

There was a major ruckus inside KIA where passengers had to sit on chairs all night with money and phone chargers stuck inside their hand baggage inside the flight.

An alternative Air India Express flight was arranged on Sunday at 8 am in which 122 passengers were to leave. The passengers on board refused to leave until arrangements were made for all to leave by different flights during the day. They finally left by 11.30 am.

RAIN, WIND, THUNDER FOR NEXT FEW DAYS

Motorists struggle to drive through the flooded Suranjan Das road in Bengaluru on Sunday | HEWIN BYJU

ORANGE ALERT FOR COAST, INTERIOR DISTS

The department also issued very heavy rainfall warnings over Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, with orange alert warning for Uttara Kannada, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur and Davangere. A yellow alert has been issued for parts of Coastal and South Interior Karnataka. The IMD attributed the showers to cyclonic circulation over south interior Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood, which will persist. The city will see cloudy skies and a few spells of rain and thunderstorms for the next 48 hours. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 29°C and 22°C respectively.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

With heavy clouds glowering above, make sure you have a windcheater or raincoat handy when you step out. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light to moderate thunderstorms with gusty winds for the next five days over Bengaluru and neighbouring areas, until May 24.

It was a cool and wet weekend in the city, with light spells of rain in some parts on Saturday, and light to moderate rain on Sunday as well. Many Bengalureans cancelled their weekend plans and stayed indoors, while some braved the rain to enjoy the city's weather. While Bengaluru city recorded 17.8mm rain, Bengaluru HAL airport recorded 37.6mm rain till 8.30pm on Sunday.

As many as 15 trees were uprooted, and close to 50 tree branches fell across the city. Residents of Indiranagar, MS Palya and Yelahanka reported tree fall incidents and at least 13 trees and 32 branches were cleared by BBMP workers.

Hebbal flyover's down ramp and Hennur-Bagalur flyover were flooded, along with other major roads in the city on Sunday. Traffic congestion was reported in Ramamurthy Nagar, KR Puram, Sanjaynagar, Hebbal, Yelahanka, Vasanthnagar, on Mysuru Road and other areas.

BBMP top brass inspected the SWD in areas that are usually affected by flash floods, like Gali Anjaneya Temple, Nayandahalli, Silk Board, HSR Layout and directed officials to ensure that the slit is removed, so that the rainwater flows without any obstruction. They also directed officials to address all the complaints recorded at the BBMP control rooms.

12 yrs on, Ramakrishna Nagar continues to flood

BIJOLPITA BHADURI & HILONI JIGGHNA @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the moderate rainfall last week, dozens of homes were flooded with stormwater and sewage water. Despite several complaints to the BBMP and BWSSB in the past, the plight of many houses in Ramakrishna Nagar is the same for the past twelve years, and the issue has not been resolved.

Residents said that the rain has made their lives difficult, as the dirty water from the drain overflows and gets into their homes. They also claimed that they only had to clear the clogged drain, and clear the silt and garbage for the water to flow, as no official of worker was their to do the job.

An activist Gulab Pasha said, "The residents of the locality were seen clearing the drain in the middle of the heavy rainfall, to prevent the water from entering their homes. Even 10 minutes of rain is enough to flood the whole area. This has been happening for the last 12 years. People have found themselves knee-deep in gutter water. The

BWSSB's sewage line work that runs along a 1.5-meter length SWD, is under progress for a very long time, which is why the roads here flood in no time. Both BBMP and BWSSB are ignoring the residents adding to their woes during the monsoon."

Echoing the same, Deepa a resident of the locality said, "Everyone is tired of complaining about the same thing for over 12 years. The rain has started, and everyone knows it will get worse unless something is done."

When BBMP chief health officer was asked about the possibility of water contamination, he said he never received any complaints and would send his team to survey the area. Civic workers claimed that they do come and clean the garbage in the area, and they are even installing sanitary pipelines to fix the issue permanently.

SWD overflow irks Northwood Villa residents

ENS @ Bengaluru

DESPITE the BBMP claiming that it is ready to handle the monsoon and rain fury, residents of Northwood Villa – located in Ramanashree California Garden Layout, Yelahanka -- were marooned, as a part of the layout was flooded, after the nearby SWD overflowed. Residents said that the area got flooded almost a week ago, but they are still bearing the brunt of an alleged lack of planning on the Palike's part.

The layout has over 500 houses, and it was the 22 homes in Northwood Villa that got flooded with up to waist-level water. Layout residents said they are now worried that in the event of heavy rain again, more houses will get flooded.

They alleged that despite repeated calls to the BBMP, no action had been taken, and it was only after videos of the flooded homes went viral that the Palike staff arrived. A BBMP release stated that the Yelahanka Zonal Commissioner and engineers visited the layout and 15 HP powered pumps were used to clear the stagnant water.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

20TH May : I am always being asked how astrology works. Here's one popular theory: the whole universe, including supernatural beings such as gods and goddesses, send signs which we can read. Astrologers look at the planets and zodiac signs, look up the ancient texts and then interpret them for the world as a whole.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Bear in mind that, for the whole week, even those difficult circumstances which you encounter will be full of potential for sheer enjoyment. Therefore, your most valuable asset will be a sense of humour. One other point worth bearing in mind, is that you also have a range of choices not open to other people.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You're sandwiched between events that are utterly down-to-earth and obvious, such as cash-flow worries, and feelings which could not be more vague and mysterious. Please don't let the latter interfere with the former. And do keep as much cash handy as you think you might need!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're still cruising along on the crest of a wave and there really is nothing that is beyond your skills and expertise. No longer will other people be able to accuse you of being a second-class citizen. In fact they might soon have to eat their words!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Deep down you are so serious, and even though you often join in a good laugh with friends, your cares are never far away. There are ways to lighten your load, and the current week is a good time to start. Today you could think about new interests and fresh approaches. It might be that all you have to do is look at an old programme from an untried angle.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It may seem some time since professional success occupied centre stage. This is as it should be, for now you have a chance to spread your wings and develop a wide range of contacts which may actually appear to have no immediate gain. There's nothing wrong with being selfless!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Mercury, your special planet, is actively scheming on your behalf. A number of glittering prizes will be paraded before your gaze, but as ever it will be up to you to make the necessary moves. A social scene could also bring its share of secrets.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Before the week is out the whole tenor of your discussions with partners will have changed. The personal significance and content will increase and your freedom to manoeuvre will be curtailed, which is actually a useful means of clarifying your options.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
This is a busy time, so don't grumble if your responsibilities are increasing. Once you have dealt with the current crop of extra jobs you will be left with a welcome sense of achievement. Also, at work it's who you know that counts, so cultivate all important personal contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Domestic improvements should by now be moving along quite nicely, helped by Venus' harmonious influence. There should be little to prevent your reaching agreement on previously contentious issues. In fact, I can see no reason at all why you shouldn't also soon clear up a long-standing mystery.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
An influential group of planets aligned with private parts of your solar chart is as clear an indication as you could wish for that success is on the way. Just as your motivation is deeply personal, so the answers lie with you and you alone. Funnily enough, though, it may be partners who find the words to say what you mean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You are now entering a profoundly creative period, one in which your innovatory ideas will, for once, be widely appreciated. All you need is the confidence to sell yourself and the skill to take care of practical details. The day also favours the young at heart, so there's no need to stand on ceremony.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
In its role as the goddess of love, Venus has acquired a special place in your affections. Now that you are basking under this gentle planet's harmonious influence, please try to avoid all stressful situations or conflicts over material affairs. Your prosperity is not at risk.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

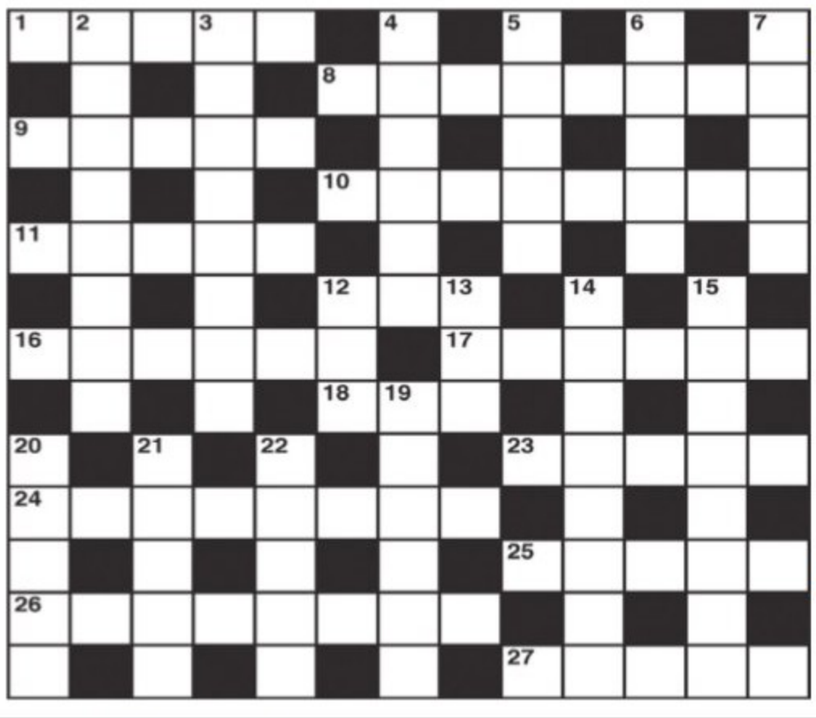
6	2		1					
	1				8			
	7	4			2			
1					3	9		
	6	5		9		3	4	
		3	6					8
			5			1	3	
			9				8	
					4		5	7

3	5	9	2	1	8	6	4	7
1	2	7	4	6	5	9	8	3
6	4	8	9	7	3	2	1	5
5	9	2	8	4	1	3	7	6
7	1	3	6	5	2	8	9	4
4	8	6	7	3	9	5	2	1
9	6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2
8	3	4	1	2	6	7	5	9
2	7	5	3	9	4	1	6	8

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Sort of speed trap caught girl in expensive car (5)
8 French husband has a period by the sea (8)
9 Put up with punishment (5)
10 It requires an answer in quotes perhaps (8)
11 Left in blood-stained triumph (5)
12 Well it could be a temporary illness (3)
16 Repeatedly set about a fly (6)
17 Use farm implement to cause distress (6)
18 Wine may be so but not water (3)
23 Spin a yarn (5)
24 When father returned by himself the rift was obvious (8)
25 Worry results when Harold gets short (5)
26 Hear of a record surplus (8)
27 Heavens above! (5)

DOWN
2 School of painting (3,5)
3 Correct for a clergyman to foot the bill (8)
4 Dog Sarah and I take around Britain (6)
5 Pity's stirred by those influenced by drink (5)
6 Invitation to trenchermen (3,2)
7 A flower that could be open before the end of July (5)
12 Satisfied FBI agent (3)
13 Belonging to you in the past (3)
14 Flinch because of a handicap (8)
15 Don't waste the jam (8)
19 Give up and get plastered (6)
20 Spars at length (5)
21 Health resorts get a number fit (5)
22 Criminal taken in hand by a bishop (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Antagonist, 6 Sows, 10 Ovate, 11 Clientele, 12 Reindeer, 13 Pater, 15 Alleges, 17 Panacea, 19 Turmoil, 21 Back out, 22 Orbit, 24 Bold type, 27 Leitmotiv, 28 Rusts, 29 Rake, 30 Broad beans.

Down: 1 Amok, 2 Traveller, 3 Green, 4 Nucleus, 5 Stirrup, 7 Overt, 8 Sheer waste, 9 In a panic, 14 Fast bowler, 16 Good time, 18 Choppy sea, 20 Lobster, 21 Bolivia, 23 Brick, 25 Throb, 26 Asks.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

PNITE

SASYS

DWTEIG

HRIUNC

Oh, man! All that time put into this experiment is wasted.
FAILURE
FAILURE
WHEN THEIR DARK MATTER EXPERIMENT FAILED, THE RESEARCHERS WERE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____-_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: NINTH DIRTY FLANGE TRENCH
Answer: Tension was high on the set because the movie stars were having trouble — INTERACTING

The Cyber Economics and Narcotics police have arrested a man who was transporting ganja on his moped near Bangarpet Junior College in KGF on Sunday. The accused, Jithendra Kumar (30), is a resident of Purava village of Buxar district in Bihar. The police seized 5.175 kg dry ganja worth over Rs 10 lakh from him

NO RIGHT OF WAY

Shopkeepers on Swagath Garuda Mall Main Road occupy footpaths as an extension of their stores, leaving little room for pedestrians | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

'Influencer' held for posts against Cong govt

Vinit Naik who runs X account 'Bhiku Mhatre' arrested in Goa; BJP promises all legal support to accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE cybercrime police in Bengaluru on Saturday night arrested a man from Goa for his hateful posts against the Karnataka Congress manifesto and for sharing an edited video clip of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on reservations.

The arrested person, Vinit Naik – a right-wing social media influencer, had posted the content on his X account 'Bhiku Mhatre' under the handle @MumbaichaDon. He was arrested based on a complaint filed on April 29 by J Saravanan, a resident of Srirampuram in Bengaluru and a Congress worker, with the cybercrime police. A case was registered against Naik under IPC Section 153(a) and Section 66(c) of the IT Act.

The complaint stated that between April 2 and April 29, Naik posted hate-filled posts, one of which targeted Siddaramaiah. It claimed that Congress "intends to take wealth from Hindus and redistribute it only to Muslims because it hates Hindus including SC/STs".

The social media influencer's son, Nagesh Naik, posted on X, "My father @MumbaichaDon has been arrested by @DgpKarnataka @CPBlr @BlrCityPolice A mail was sent by TWITTER and suddenly in the evening the Police showed up at the doorstep and took away my father! FIR is totally NOT pertinent! #ReleaseBhikuMhatre."

> **We are in touch with his family and will ensure he gets all legal support. Congress has unleashed anarchy and is intolerant of dissent. But there won't be another #Emergency, ever**
>
> Amit Malviya, BJP national IT cell head

BJP criticised the state government for the arrest. BJP national IT cell head Amit Malviya posted, "Karnataka Police has arrested @MumbaichaDon from Goa. We are in touch with his family and will ensure he gets all legal support. Congress has unleashed anarchy and is intolerant of dissent. But there won't be another #Emergency in this country, ever."

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya posted, "This is blatant abuse of power by Karnataka Congress Govt. We will fight this, both inside courts and outside."

'You're stumped': Influencer who planned to breach IPL security finds cops waiting for him

Bengaluru: In a bid to increase his followers on social media, an influencer, who had posted that he would interrupt the IPL T20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Saturday, was detained by the police as he entered the Chinnaswamy stadium. The influencer, identified as Nitin Sequeira, had posted a video promising his followers that he will trespass into the stadium during the match if he got 50,000 more followers. After he got 50,000 followers, he posted another video stating that he had "got a ticket to suitable stands in Chinnaswamy stadium on May 18 for RCB vs CSK match" and he could easily jump into the ground. The police said as the video of the influencer went viral on social media, they decided to detain him before he breached the stadium security. Accordingly, the Cubbon Park police took Sequeira into preventive custody as soon as he arrived at the stadium. Later, the Bengaluru city police shared his video on their official pages on social media, stating, "Nice try, buddy, but attempting to breach security during IPL is a guaranteed six straight into our custody. Sorry mate, you're stumped". ENS

Liquid nitrogen paan puts hole in 12-yr-old's stomach, surgery done

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN a reminder of the hidden dangers behind trendy foods, a 12-year-old girl was hospitalised in HSR Layout after consuming a liquid nitrogen-infused paan at a wedding reception in Bengaluru recently. The hospital diagnosed her condition as perforation peritonitis — a hole in the stomach.

The patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy with intraoperative OGD scopy, where an endoscope was used to examine the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum. During the surgery, an unhealthy patch measuring approximately 4x5 cm was found on the lesser curvature of the stomach. A sleeve gastrectomy was performed and a portion of the stomach was removed. Following the surgery, the patient was admitted for two days in the ICU and was discharged after a six-day stay at the hospital.

Dr Vijay HS, Operating Surgeon, Surgical Gastroenterology, at Narayana Multispeciality Hospital, said multiple such cases have been reported from various parts of the country and it is crucial to take these isolated incidents seriously before they become a pattern. They point to inherent risks associated with experimental culinary practices and the need for safety measures.

Liquid nitrogen poses significant health risks and when it evaporates in an enclosed space, it generates a tremendous amount of force. This volatile substance can damage the skin and pose severe health threats to chefs and other food handlers. Inhaling the vapours can cause breathing difficulties, and there have been reports of tissue damage due to the hazardous nature of liquid nitrogen, a health expert explained.

No ban on liquid nitrogen in Karnataka yet

In April, the Tamil Nadu health department issued an order stating that the liquid nitrogen must be entirely evaporated from food or beverages before serving. The directive was issued after a boy reportedly suffered a severe stomach pain and developed complications after consuming "smoke biscuits" at an exhibition in Davangere. While a senior official from the Karnataka health department had earlier told TNIE that the department has asked the food safety officers to take action on such misuse if found, as per Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the department is yet to officially issue a detailed directive on the usage of liquid nitrogen.

Youth rides bike with girl sitting on fuel tank, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 21-year-old youth, who rode a bike with his female friend sitting on the fuel tank, has been arrested by the Hebbal traffic police after the video of the incident went viral on social media. The incident took place on Kodigehalli flyover on BB Road on Friday night.

The accused has been identified as Silambarasan, a resident of MV Layout in Shampur near Kaval Byrasandra.

The video shows the accused riding the bike with his friend sitting side-saddle on the fuel tank. They were travelling from Yelahanka towards Hebbal. The act was filmed by occupants of a car that was behind the bike.

Taking note of the video, the Hebbal traffic police registered a case against the biker and traced him based on the registration number and arrested him. The police have seized the bike and have recommended the transport department for suspension of the rider's driving licence.

Two booked for performing wheelie

Kolar: Witin an hour of two youth posting a video on social media of them performing a wheelie stunt, the Kolar police nabbed them and booked them under the Indian Motor Vehicle (IMV) Act.

A source said the family of the youth was in a car and shot the video of the motorcycle stunt on the Bengaluru-Chennai highway near Kolar Deputy Commissioner's office on Sunday.

The moment the video was uploaded on the social media, the police got the wind of it and swung into action. After verifying the registration number, the police nabbed Ganesh and Akshay, both residents of Basavanatha, and seized the two-wheeler. The duo was booked under the relevant provisions of the IMV Act. Narayana also said the police are keeping a watch on social media.

CRIME PATROL

Flyers from Dubai caught with nearly 3 kg of gold

Bengaluru: Four flyers from Dubai, including one woman, who attempted to smuggle gold in semi-powder form by concealing them in specially designed layers in their T-shirts and jeans, were caught by Bengaluru Air Customs on Saturday. The gold weighed 2814.36 gram and is valued at Rs 1.96 crore. Their background stumped officials as they are from diverse fields. A source said, "They are all in their late twenties. One of them is an engineering graduate while the woman was a make-up artist. The others were a travel agent and an interior designer." An official communication from the Customs Department said they had arrived from Dubai via flight EK-568. ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. C. YESWANTH** S/o Sri. Chinthalapalli Nagesh, Aged about 30 years, Residing at No.1-154-8, Bazar Street, somala Mandalam, Kanduru Village, CHITTOOR District, ANDHRA PRADESH - 517234 is intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written from **GOPINATH. R** S/o Sri. M Raja, Aged about 30 years, Residing at No.45, Narayana Shetty Layout, Near New Cambridge Public School, Doddanagamangala Village, E-city Post, Bangalore - 560100 who represented that he has clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claims and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **SEVEN (7) days** from today, filing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **House List No.25, Katha No.8/2, E- Katha PID No. 150200300600328234, Property No.4717/8/2/25,** situated at "New Bangalore Silicon Town, Phase-1" **DODDANAGAMANGALA** Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, comes under the limits of Konappana Agrahara Gram Panchayath, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all Measuring 1200 Sq. Ft., along with 40 squares of R.C.C. Roofed building consisting of 4 Floors, constructed with bricks, vitrified tiles flooring, used jungle wood for doors and windows along with lift facility and all other civic amenities and bounded as follows:

East By : Site No.24,	West By : Site No.26,
North By: Road,	South By : Private Property.

M. ANANDA, Advocate
Roll No.KAR 1007/95, No.1431,
Ground Floor, D' Souza Building, Begur Main Road, Near Sub-Registrar's Office, Begur, Bangalore-560114. Mob.: 9845343337.

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by Government of Odisha)

Admission Announcement
B. Tech. Programme

Applications are invited for admission to B.Tech. Programme under **Odisha Category** in the following disciplines.

- **Computer Science & Engineering**
- **Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering**
- **Electrical & Electronics Engineering**
- **Information Technology**
- **Computer Engineering**

Admission shall be strictly restricted to JEE (Main) 2024 Rank holders.
IIIT Bhubaneswar reserves 50% seats for Odisha category candidates and the counseling for admission shall be done by the Institute directly. The admission for the rest of the seats shall be done by JoSAA2024.
For Admission Bulletin and more details visit our website : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/admission**

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
15/1, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S. LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.
The Borrower in particular and the public in general are here by \cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,
The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
Mrs. Divya M (W/o Late Shivaneshan V) and Mrs. Navanitham V Loan Account No. 412100002161 Symbolic Possession taken date : 15/05/2024	13/10/2022	Rs.12604420/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Six Lakh Four thousand Four Hundred Twenty Only)	All that piece and parcel of house built in Site No. 14, H A S B Khata Mno. 1197/A/502/1, Situated at Annasandra palya, Vibhuthipura Dhakale, K R Puram, Hobli, H.A.S.B Area, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 30 Ft., North to South 40 Ft., and bounded : East by : Road, West by : House site No. 27, North by : House site No. 15, South by : House site no. 13
Mr. Suhas S & Mr. Sathayanarayana A Loan Account No. 412100004351 & 412100005345 Symbolic Possession taken date : 15/05/2024	05/01/2024	Rs.4820061.00 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Twenty Thousand Sixty One Only)	All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.28. Assessment No.19/19, Khata No.754/236, situated at Nagareswar Nagenahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, ,now comes BBMP limits, Bangalore measuring East to West: 23.5+23/2 feet and North to South: 30 feet in all measurting 697.5 Sq.ft., and bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by :Remaining Portion of Site No.28, North by: Newly formed Road, South by: Site No.27.
Mr. Anand Yellappa & Mrs. Gowaramma Loan Account No. 412100002060 & 412100002098 Symbolic Possession taken date : 15/05/2024	31/01/2024	Rs.10175454/- (Rupees One Crore One lakh Seventy Five thousand and Four Hunderd and Fifty Four only)	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No. 17/5, Mahadevapura CMC Katha No.508,situated at Marathalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits measuring East to West 33 Feet and North to South 33 Feet in all measuring 1089 Sq.Feet along with House built thereon and together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on : East by : Property of P.V. Manohar West by : Private Property North by : Private Property South by: Road

Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -1 BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

SALE PROCLAMATION FORM NO. 22

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 38 AND 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993

RC No.7166/2013 in OA No.164/2011

State Bank of India and MR. VANKA HARI BABU & Others

To: 1. Mr. Vanka Hari Babu @ Hari Babu Vanka, S/o Sri V. Subba Rao, No.445 'D', 6th Cross, 9th Main, H.B.R. Layout, Bangalore-560043. **Also, at:** M/s. Centpercent Cars, No.43, Mosque Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005. **2.Mrs.V.V.Sujatha,** W/o Mr. Hari Babu No.445 D', 6th Cross, 9th Main, H.B.R. Layout, Bangalore-560043. Also, at: M/s. Centpercent Cars, No.43, Mosque Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005. **3.a) M/s. Sri Sai Builders,** Rep by Managing Partner: Mr. P. Bala Gangadhara Reddy No.9, Ground Floor, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura Extn., C.V.Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore-560093. b) M/s. Sri Sai Builders, Rep by Managing Partner: Mr. P. Rama Rao, No.9, Ground Floor, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura Extn., C.V.Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore-560093, **4.Mr. Bala Gangadhara Reddy,** S/o Sri P. Venkata Reddy, No.9, G Floor, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura Extn., C.V.Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore -560093, **5.Mr. P.Rama Rao,** S/o Late Sri Narayana Rao, No.255, D.N.R. Bhavani Nagar, N.G.O's Colony, Hanuma Konda, Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh. **...Defendants**

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site **http://drt.auctiontiger.net** on **26.06.2024** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.1,29,92,030/-** (Rupees one crore twenty-nine lakhs ninety-two thousand thirty only) Includes costs and interest thereon as on 30.09.2023 along with further interest till realization of debt as per recovery certificate **RC No. 7166/2013 in OA No. 164/2011.**

Date and Time of Auction	**26.06.2024 Between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**
Reserve Price	**Rs.49,25,000/-** (Rs Forty Nine Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.4,92,500/-** (Rs Four Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)
Date and Time of EMD and Tender Submission	**24.06.2024 by 03:00pm**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY :SCHEDULE A PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property being converted Sy. No. 92/3. Katha No. 634, situated at Horamavu, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. totally measuring about 19057.5 s¹. ft (converted vide the Order of the Deputy Commissioner dated 18.11.2004, No. BDS.LN.SR(E)159/2004-05) AND bounded as follows East by; Road and remaining portion in the same survey number, West by; Water Channel, North by; Land belonging to K. Raja Reddy and South by; C. Pilla Reddy's Land.
SCHEDULE B PROPERTY: Flat bearing No. G-06 in Ground Floor of the apartment building known as Sri Sai Palace having a super built up area of 1310 s¹.ft. containing two bed rooms, along with one car parking space, together with 583.08 sq. ft. undivided share of the land comprised in Schedule A Property.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website:http://drt.auctiontiger.net, M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (abcProcure), Ahmedabad is the Service Provider to arrange e-auction platform. [Contact No.079-40016816/35/79/83/91] Email ID: support@auctiontiger.net].
For further details contact: Chief Manager, Mr. Raviprakash Harakere Vishwanath Shastry, Contact No. : 9535327281, State Bank of India, SAR Branch, JC Road, Bengaluru 560 002 for ascertaining the details of immovable properties and also for inspection of immovable properties,
E-mail: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 17.05.2024

Sd/-
Recovery Officer-2,
DRT -1, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all that my Client **Suresh.K** S/o Late Mr. G. Kamalanathan is the absolute owner of the scheduled site and anybody dealing with any other person/s regarding the schedule property other than my client are doing it against law and at their own risk.

Schedule:

Site No. 14 measuring approximately East to West 100 ft and North to South 30 ft. formed out in Sy.No. 130,131 & 132 of Machohalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore bounded by East: Private Property, West: Road, North : Site No.13, South : Site No.15.

BALUNDAGI KALLAPPA .M
Advocate, Nelmangala.

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
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IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 7th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031. Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)** from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i).
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank **website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.**

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Date and Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(ix) Date and time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 8224705.00/- Demand Notice dated: 04-Nov-2022	10060657620	Prabhavathi N & Venkatesh J	All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Apartment/Flat No.005, In The Ground Floor, Having 1890 Sq. Ft Super Built Up Area Including Terrace area,At site no-602, In The Residential Apartment Building Known As "J.J. Elita" In Porperty Bearing S.L. No. 602, Municipal No. 44/1, 44/2, 44/3 And 44/4 Old Sy. No. 44 Then Old surey no-44 And Resurvey No. 44/1, 44/2, 44/3, And 44/4, Total Measuring 26,136 Sq. Ft.(24 Guntas)Situated At Nyanappanhalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore And, Bounded As: East: Nyanappanahalli Main Road, West : Private Property, North: Private Property & South: Nyanappanahalli-Hulimavu Road	INR 7654500.00/-	INR 765450.00/-	05-Jun-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	04-Jun-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	30-May-2024 10:00 AM To 4:00 PM	Name- Preeti Toshniwal Contact Number- 9694702013 Name- Samson Castelino Contact Number- 9663456354

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date: 20.05.2024

Sd/- Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad took a dig at the ruling Congress on Sunday, accusing the state government of engaging in minority appeasement. "For the last one year, law and order in the state has deteriorated. There is no protection for Hindu interests in this government," VHP organising secretary Milind Parade alleged

DOUBLE TROUBLE OF DROUGHT & RAIN

Farmers are our great gamblers who have to contend with the vagaries of a scorching summer and stormy monsoon

TEAM TNIE

THE severe drought over the past year had plunged Karnataka's farmers into deep distress, and just when the State government started disbursing compensation, heavy rain and winds are adding to their woes. Since the last week of April, heavy pre-monsoon rain accompanied by gusty winds have been reported in many parts of the state, leaving crops damaged.

Farmers who depend on agriculture and horticulture crops in Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Mysuru, Haveri and Kalaburagi have lost their banana, onion and tomato crops, besides others. Principal Secretary of the Revenue department Rashmi Mahesh said it is too early to say that rain is causing damage, as crops have been affected in a few pockets. Compensation is being paid as per norms.

After the Southwest and Northeast monsoons failed last year, the State government declared 223 taluks as drought-hit, and sought Rs 18,177 crore in financial assistance from the Centre for drought relief. An estimate of crop loss on 46.11 lakh hectares of agricultural land and 2.06 lakh hectares of horticulture land was drawn up.

The state government paid drought compensation to over 32.12 lakh farmers. Officials are verifying documents of over two lakh farmers, and have given each Rs 4,000. The Revenue department also decided to pay compensation to 1.63 lakh farmers whose lands were not registered under the compensation list. "There are 16 lakh farmers who have small landholdings, and the government decided to pay them compensation of Rs 3,000," sources said.

VIJAYAPURA

Saving the lemon trees

Mohammed Rafique Patel is making every effort to help his 25 lemon plants stand in an upright position, to prevent them from withering. But he is well aware that a majority of the plants were fully uprooted and may never stand again. "I know I am making futile efforts, but I can't see my plants drying up, therefore, with the hope that nature will shower mercy on me, I am trying to salvage the plants with the support of bamboos," he said.

This is the struggle of Patel who has lost 25 lemon plants which are nearly 15 years old, to the recent gusty winds and rain in his native Ingalagi village in Indi taluk, where Patel has a farm.

What has added to his misery is that these are the same plants he was trying hard to save from drought for nearly 60 days, spending around Rs 1,000 each day to supply water through private tankers.

"The problem with lemon plants is that if they wither away, they will never become green again. The farmer has no choice but to cut it down. Each plant takes at least six years to reach the fruit-bearing period. Farmers like me struggle to save plants, even supplying water through tankers," he said.

Patel's problem now is bigger. "It was difficult to save plants, I had to spend money on tankers as the borewells had gone dry. But at least I had some hope that they would survive, and my struggle was for two months as the monsoon would end my woes. But now the plants are fully uprooted, I have replanted around 25 saplings and have to wait for six years," he said in dismay.

Patel said he was earning around Rs 6 lakh every year from his hundred plants, but now earnings will decline after the loss of nearly 25 fully grown plants.

BIG PICTURE

KOLAR

Winds flatten banana plantations

Basavaraj, a farmer in Jangam Basavapura, Huthur hobli, Kolar district, was waiting for his Yalakki banana crop to command a bumper price, like last year. However, due to heavy wind that destroyed the crop, he suffered a loss of Rs 6 lakh. Last year, he got a bumper crop and earned nearly Rs 6.5 lakh.

This year, his banana plantation on seven acres of land was flattened by winds. Basavaraj said he owns three acres and has taken another four acres on lease. "I invested Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 per acre. Last week, heavy winds damaged the crop," he said.

However, mango growers are happy with the recent rain. Narayanaswamy, a mango grower from Srinivasapura, said they will get a good yield.

BELAGAVI

Drought, rain bring heavy losses

Drought and heavy rain have proved to be a double-edged curse for farmers, especially those who have fields on the banks of Bellary Nala in Belagavi. Their crops were damaged due to drought as well as heavy rain.

Gopal Somanache, one of the farmers who are facing losses due to drought and heavy rain, said that neither nature nor the administration is in their favour. He owns one acre and 27 guntas of fertile land on the banks of Bellary Nala. Of this, National Highways Authority of India acquired 10 guntas to lay the Halaga-Macche bypass road. He had cultivated paddy in the remaining land.

Somanache said that due to drought, his paddy crop was damaged and he suffered heavy losses. He started cultivating greens like coriander and fenugreek (methi), but recent heavy rain damaged them. Somanache said survival of his family depends on farming, and if this situation continues, it will be very difficult.

Raju Marve, another farmer and social worker, said that since 2013, farmers have been demanding that Bellary Nala be desilted and encroachments removed. But no action was taken, he alleged. Marve said that even a short, heavy spell of rain would flood his fields and damage crops. When in power, the BJP government had promised to provide Rs 800 crore for cleaning and developing Bellary Nala, but nothing happened, he said.

KALABURAGI

Curse of untimely rain

As many as 131 farmers of Kalaburagi district lost their horticulture crops on about 92.55 hectares of land due to wind and untimely heavy rain in a month, from April 11 to May 10. Revanasiddappa S Kumbar (Appu) of Herur(K) village of Kalagi taluk is among those worst hit by heavy wind and untimely rain. He owns about 12 acres of land, and had cultivated papaya on about three acres. He was just getting his papaya yield and was happy that he would make a good profit as he could sell the fruit for six months.

"Heavy winds and untimely heavy rain on May 9 destroyed my dreams," said Appu. Almost 90 per cent of the standing papaya crop was damaged, with the estimated loss at around Rs 25 lakh, a worried Appu said. Though he has grown sugarcane on nine acres and it is in good condition, he has to wait for another six months for the yield.

"I change the horticulture crops every alternate year. Previously, I had grown banana and earned a handsome profit. This is the first time I have suffered heavy loss and our family has to cut down on expenses," Appu said. The assistant director of the Horticulture department visited his field and surveyed the crop loss, he said.

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Coffee and pepper in ruin

True to the axiom that farmers gamble with the monsoon, cultivators in the Malnad part of the district, essentially small growers, have borne the brunt of the vagaries of nature this year.

Heatwaves and soaring temperatures continued until April-end, resulting in severe drought and damage to plantation crops like coffee, pepper vines and areca. Farmers are grappling with the problem of crop loss.

In Dinnekere in Aldur hobli limits, DM Manjunatha Swamy, a small grower, owns 15 acres of coffee plantation. He grows pepper as an intercrop and lives with his aged mother, Bhadramma, while his two brothers and sisters have married and moved out.

Small grower Manjunatha Swamy says, "Climate change has adversely affected coffee and pepper crops. Paddy cultivation has stopped due to the wild boar menace. Previously, there was sufficient rain till January and February, which helped produce a bumper pepper crop.

Unfortunately, with drought hitting the area, pepper vines wilted and sprouting grains began to die. I used to get 40kg of dried pepper, but it has come down to 25kg. My land would yield 320kg of pulped Arabica coffee but it has reduced to 150kg," he says.

Besides, silver oak trees on which pepper vines wind themselves, are affected by disease, and their tender shoots are dying. "The Coffee Board has not come up with a permanent solution. Finally, thunderstorms coupled with hailstones pounded our area in the first week of May, damaging sprouting coffee beans and pepper," he says.

On crop loss compensation, Swamy said that instead of giving Rs 2,000 for crop loss, the government should provide subsidies for fertilizers, agricultural equipment and pesticides.

UDUPI

Button shedding hits areca farmers

There is one segment which is worst affected by scarcity of rain -- arecanut farmers of Udupi district. Button shedding, also known as fruit drop, the premature falling of young areca fruits, has ruined the prospect of a good reward for their hard work.

Ashwath Narayan Prabhu, a 55-year-old arecanut farmer from Shirlalu in Karkala taluk of Udupi district, says button shedding in his plantation is severe. ''Because of scarcity of rain, the young nuts which are white, instead of green, fall prematurely. This season, there will be a considerable drop in yield which will mean huge losses,'' he said.

One kg of arecanut (peeled) now fetches Rs 370, while last year this time, the price was Rs 400, so the market price is also not so remunerative. Ashwath, who has about 800 mature arecanut trees, said 300 of them are 30 years old. The remaining 500 trees are 15 years old, and last year, Ashwath planted another 500 saplings.

'When I meet department officials, they say lack of nutrient management would have resulted in the button shedding problem. If I take soil samples for testing, the reports never arrive, so I have stopped approaching the government department,'' he rued. Ashwath added that because he has his coconut and banana plantations, and rears cows and grows jasmine as well, his revenue model is working. ''Otherwise, it's very difficult for farmers like me,'' he said.

(With inputs from Firoz Rozindar/Vijayapura, V Velayudham/Kolar, Tushar A Majukar/Belagavi, Ramkrishna Badseshi/Kalaburagi, B Thipperudrappa/Chikkamagaluru, Prakash Samaga/Udupi)

STATE AT WORK

'Cong govt upbeat over successful implementation of guarantees'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CONGRESS came to power winning 136 seats in the May 10, 2023 Assembly elections, riding on the allegation by the contractors' association that the then BJP government was demanding 40 per cent commission from contractors.

But Contractors' Association president D Kempanna attacked the Congress government too, saying corruption had continued and blamed officials of working under orders of politicians. The government managed to assuage the contractors by releasing a part of their dues, but large amounts are still pending.

Besides, the tiff between Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundurao and Beelagi MLA JT Patil exposed the alleged corruption in transfer of officials. Patil filed a complaint with Speaker UT Khader against Dinesh's personal secretary KA Hidayatullah. The latter, in turn, filed a police complaint, alleging that the MLA's personal assistant Beelagi Prakash was resorting to blackmail tactics and corruption in transfers.

Later, Aland MLA BR Patil and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda locked horns over development works and allegations of taking cuts. Siddaramaiah defused the situation by making Patil his adviser with a cabinet rank.

In the meantime, JDS, especially its state president HD Kumaraswamy, alleged that Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra was interfering in the transfer of officials. Despite these allegations, the government is upbeat that it has successfully implemented all the five guarantees it promised ahead of the Assembly elections, without going bankrupt. But the state government's dire financial condition was exposed when Siddaramaiah told party MLAs that the funds would be released for development works only after the Lok Sabha elections.

The biggest challenge for both Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivkumar would be to prevent opposition parties from taking advantage of the alleged rift between them. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and Kumaraswamy have said the government would fall after the Lok Sabha elections.

The government may have to fend off the demand for cabinet expansion and appointing three more deputy chief ministers, which was raised a few months ago. Ministers Dr G Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, KH Muniyappa and Dr HC Mahadevappa have held parleys allegedly to discuss these issues. "If the BJP-led NDA government comes to power at the Centre, the Congress government may find it difficult to keep its flock of MLAs together as issues like cabinet berths and funds for their constituencies would crop up," a political observer said.

"The Congress government in Karnataka led by Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar completes a year in office on May 20. It has worked tirelessly in a short span of time and won the praise of innumerable people. The Congress government has spread the ideology of equality and equity while working impartially for all communities. Our guarantees are a way of ensuring this and are reaching 4.60 crore beneficiaries," said AICC General Secretary, Karnataka in-charge, Randeep Singh Surjewala.

BJP to release 'chargesheet' against govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state completing one year in office on Monday, the principal Opposition BJP is all set to release a 'chargesheet' against it.

Accordingly, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and party state chief BY Vijayendra are expected to release a brochure, highlighting the government's alleged failures, including the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Issues such as the bomb blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru, murders of two women in Hubballi, the state's decision to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, failure to tackle the drought situation, etc are likely to figure in the chargesheet, sources said.

"The government losing focus on development, by prioritising on the implementation of its five guarantees, will also be highlighted, since not even a single development work was taken up in the last one year," a BJP leader informed. In the coming days, protests will also be organised across the state to stress on these issues, he added.

Alleged audio clip of Devaraje, Shivarame out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HASSAN JDS MP Prajwal Revanna's alleged sex scandal case took a new twist on Sunday with the release of audio tapes consisting of the alleged conversation between BJP leader and advocate Devaraje Gowda and former MP LR Shivarame Gowda.

In the alleged audio, Shivarame Gowda says DCM DK Shivakumar has given him a task and insists that Devaraje Gowda should help Shivakumar frame ex-CM HD Kumaraswamy as the mastermind behind the circulation of pen drives containing sleazy videos allegedly of Prajwal.

Shivarame Gowda also allegedly says the Congress government is all prepared to politically finish off former PM HD Deve Gowda and his family.

Before the audio was aired on TV news channels, Shivarame Gowda refuted the charges at a press meet. He said he will file a defamation suit against Devaraje Gowda. "There are invisible hands behind Devaraje Gowda and he might have dragged Shivakumar's name and used Union minister Amit Shah's name as SIT is taking forward the case against him. I have conversed with Devaraje Gowda for only two days and besides that, I am in no way concerned with the pen drive release deal," he maintained.

On May 6, Devaraje Gowda alleged that Shivarame Gowda made him speak to Shivakumar over phone. Soon after, Devaraje Gowda was arrested in an old case. On Friday, Devaraje Gowda alleged that Shivakumar had offered him Rs 100 crore to frame Kumaraswamy. But Shivakumar denied the charges and alleged that Devaraje Gowda is mentally unstable.

JDS posted on X, "Your president is the original owner of the pen drive factory. These are all conspiracies of the nefarious act of pen drive distribution by the CD Shivakumar gang. It is the audio tapes that have come out after Devaraj Gowda's statement that have unravelled the saga of a mega conspiracy. Now tell me, who is mentally unstable?"

It alleged, "The conspiracy is to discredit the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, undermine the leadership of H D Kumaraswamy, break JD(S) and BJP alliance and to take the life of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda." A BJP delegation will approach Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, appealing him to take action to hand over the alleged sex scandal case to the CBI, sources said.

LoP R Ashoka calls on former prime minister HD Deve Gowda in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Ashoka discusses Prajwal's case with Deve Gowda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka called on former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and greeted him on turning 92, here on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka claimed to have discussed the state's political scenario with Gowda, who spoke about certain issues. He clarified that action should be taken against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna in the alleged sex scandal case, but questioned the government for allegedly sparing those who had circulated the pen drives consisting the sleazy videos.

He alleged that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar was trying to cover up the truth, and hence, advocate and BJP leader Devaraje Gowda who spoke the truth about the pen drive was arrested. "Shivakumar's intention was to prevent the truth from being telecast in the media," he stated.

"Shivakumar, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah together made a master plan. Siddaramaiah has already finished the Dalit leaders. In the same way, he made a plan to finish off Vokkaligas. Prajwal's case should be handed over to the CBI and heads in the government will roll. The SIT has been trying to bury the case, as it has not arrested those who circulated the pen drives," he alleged.

> There are invisible hands behind Devaraje Gowda and he might have dragged Shivakumar's name and used Union minister Amit Shah's name as SIT is taking forward the case against him
>
> LR Shivarame Gowda, former MP

Belthangady BJP MLA Harish Poonja sits on dharna at the police station

BJP MLA booked for threatening, abusing cops

MANGALURU: Belthangady BJP MLA Harish Poonja was booked for allegedly threatening, abusing and obstructing the police from performing their duty, on Sunday. A video of the MLA purportedly barging into the police station and abusing a uniformed cop in front of BJP workers has gone viral. According to a statement, the Belthangady police arrested BJP Yuva Morcha taluk president Shashiraj Shetty, following a raid on an illegal stone quarry at Mudala in Melanthabettu village, on Saturday. Explosives used in the quarry, trucks and stones were seized. Police booked Shetty and another BJP worker, Pramod Ujire. Ujire is absconding, while Shetty was remanded to 15 days judicial custody. Learning of Shetty's arrest, Poonja and his supporters allegedly barged into the Belthangady police station on Saturday night and sat on dharna. In a video posted online by Poonja himself, he can be heard abusing cops for arresting Shetty. He also accuses them of acting at the behest of Congress leaders, and pressurises them to release Shetty. **ENS**

After the IMD issued a red alert in parts of Kerala till Tuesday, the tourism department banned night travel in hilly areas in Idukki district from 7pm to 6am. However, employees in the emergency sectors have been exempted from the ban. Activities like off-road trekking, mining, fishing in water bodies and boating have also been temporarily ceased

NEAR-STAMPEDE AT RAHUL-AKHILESH RALLY

Congress, SP workers break barricades; both leaders raise 'Save Constitution, Save Democracy' slogans

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday had to rush out of a public meeting in Phulpur parliamentary constituency in UP's Prayagraj district when a ruckus broke out in the crowd and a stampede-like situation led to security threats to the leaders.

Consequently, the INDIA bloc leaders left the public rally venue in Padila block without addressing the crowd as both the Congress and SP workers went out of control and reached out to the leaders at the stage breaking the barricades.

Initially, both Akhilesh and Rahul repeatedly requested party workers to calm down and settle but their appeals went unheeded. Police and security personnel struggled to control the unruly crowd.

After making multiple appeals to the crowd, Rahul and Akhilesh held a brief discussion among themselves and left the venue to avoid any lapse in security.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public rally in Phulpur on Sunday | PTI

Visuals from the event showed broken barricades after the leaders left the venue and the crowd dissipated.

From Phulpur, Rahul and Akhilesh reached Mungari block in Karachhana assembly segment for the second rally under the Allahabad parliamentary constituency.

In Karchhana also, a similar situation was witnessed at the rally venue where the crowd, breaking the barricades, attempted to reach the stage.

However, in Karchhana, both the leaders addressed the crowd briefly before making an appeal in favour of Congress candidate Ujjawal Raman Singh, son of SP stalwart Kunwar Reoti Raman Singh. Ujjawal is facing BJP's Neeraj Tripathi, the assistant advocate general and also enjoying the political legacy of former West Bengal governor Keshari Nath Tripathi as his son.

Addressing the gathering, both Rahul and Akhilesh made the pitch for scrapping the military recruitment scheme Agniveer on coming to power. They claimed that it was discriminatory and was an injustice to the future of youth who aspire to join the Indian Army.

Both the leaders also called the ensuing election a battle to protect not only the Constitution of India but also democracy. "If the BJP comes to power again, it will change the Constitution and meddle with the provision of reservation guaranteed, therein, for SC, ST and OBCs," claimed Rahul. He also reiterated his party's promise to credit ₹1 lakh per year in the account of women and start the apprenticeship scheme to enable the youth acquire various skills while getting a stipend during the apprenticeship period.

Rahul said that the BJP is winning only one seat in UP. "Have you heard Narendra Modi is winning only one BJP seat of Kyoto (Varanasi) in Uttar Pradesh," said Gandhi while addressing the rally in support of INDIA bloc candidate Ujjawal Raman Singh.

Modi had earlier said that he will turn Varanasi into Kyoto, a picturesque town in Japan. "The fight is to save the Constitution. The BJP and the RSS are attacking it, and I want to tell them that no power can tear and throw the Constitution away," Gandhi said while waiving a copy of the Constitution. Akhilesh promised to bring guaranteed MSP for the farmers. He accused the government of the day of getting the question papers of various recruitment drives leaked.

BEYOND UNIVERSITIES

Students going abroad spend a lot on housing

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

EDUCATION partners and companies associated with facilitating students' journey after their admissions to universities abroad recommended that with growing demand, geopolitical issues and demand-supply imbalance, interested students must "start early".

They stressed that students should plan approximately 12 to 18 months before they depart for their educational destination.

Students must look beyond university halls as many shell out more from their pockets to pay for accommodation in foreign countries. Early planning can potentially reduce costs by 20-30 per cent, according to a report -- Beyond Beds and Boundaries: Indian Student Mobility Report-2023-2024 -- released recently by University Living (UL).

The report noted that an estimated 1.3 million students enrolled in courses abroad for 2023 out of which 6 per cent were from Karnataka, and this percentage will only see a spike in the coming years. Around 8.5 lakh students are pursuing higher education in just four focused countries -- the US, UK, Canada and Australia. They are spending close to 34 billion US dollars for 2023-2024 on their education. The sector is set to grow by 14 per cent and the projected spending by Indian students on overseas education is expected to be around 70 billion US dollars by 2025.

The trends also show that there is a shift in countries that students opt for with an increasing demand for Spain, Europe, Dubai, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Singapore and Russia as the next hotspots.

Speaking to TNIE, Saurabh Arora, founder and CEO, UL, an international student housing managed marketplace, said, "Accommodation in university halls and Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSAs) is limited. Universities are not expanding their halls which has a direct impact on how much an Indian student has to shell out for accommodation in co-living, private apartments and homestays. Affording accommodation beyond these two options is an expensive affair."

He added that according to the data accessed by the UL, only one out of six students get university halls. An Indian student studying abroad pays 12,000 dollars in the US, 10,000 US dollars in Canada, 13,000 US dollars in Australia and 9,700 US dollars in the UK for accommodation.

'IN MALE-DOMINATED POLITICS, WOMEN FACE MANY DIFFICULTIES'

BOLLYWOOD actress and BJP candidate from Mandi Lok Sabha constituency **Kangana Ranaut** says she was given the ticket as her whole carrier was dedicated to women empowerment. In an interview with **Harpreet Bajwa**, she said politics should not be a personal ambition and that one will make a difference through politics when something tangible could be done to the lives of people. Excerpts:

Why did you choose to join electoral politics?

We say we have come to serve the people. Politics should not be a personal ambition. I will not say I have joined politics, but I will say people called me and gave this chance. It is not that I wanted to be a candidate, but the BJP wanted me to be their candidate. I was their choice. I think I was chosen a candidate due to my nationalist thinking and for the work I have done in field of women empowerment in my movies, be it *Queen, Manikarnika, Panga or Thalaivi.*

What difference do you find between acting in movies and politics. Is politics attractive for you?

See, honestly till now nothing attractive. You know, to make a movie is very creative but when you do its marketing, that is the most difficult and boring phase of filmmaking. Now after my entry into the political field, it is time for campaign, going from village to village, travelling 400 kilometres daily. In movies also marketing is done like this. When we will be able to do something tangible to the lives of people, then one will make a difference.

You say you are Himachal Ki Beti; how do you resonate with the locals?

I am a very local person. I have always been a hill person. I am identified by my roots. Wherever I go, people welcome me. I am very rooted and grounded. I am not connecting with people as a film star but as a Himachal Ki Beti.

On what issues you are fighting these elections and what are your priorities?

The terrain of our constituency is very difficult and many far-off places come in our area, be it Lahaul and Spiti, Pangi, or Kinnaur. Thus connectivity will be our major concern. Himachal is lacking in connectivity, there is no good international airport. I feel to bring more tourism projects — beautification of ancient religious places to publicise them, restarting the stalled Shiv Dam project. I aim to construct more kendriya vidyalayas and hospitals, generate employment and tap talent of local women. I plan to promote home stays, cafeterias and just not bring big private corporate hotels.

You are a role model for many women. Do you have specific plans to uplift them?

The Himachali women are strong and determined, they are famous for working very hard. I resonate with 'Pahari' women because my fierceness and aggressive nature resonates with them.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi with family members of Anjali Ambiger in Hubballi on Sunday | DHEMANTH

Murder victim Anjali's sister survives suicide attempt

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

DAYS after Anjali Ambiger, 20, was brutally murdered by a youth at her residence in Hubballi, her younger sister Yashodha, 18, tried to commit suicide by consuming toilet liquid cleaner late Saturday night. She was rushed to KIMS hospital for treatment where doctors who treated her said she is out of danger.

On Saturday, during a mass protest held to condemn the gruesome murder of Anjali in Hubballi, Yashoda took ill and was taken back to her residence on Veerapura Street. Later in the night, she consumed phenol and collapsed on the ground. Some family members and neighbours shifted her to the hospital.

Yashoda has been the voice of the family ever since her sister was stabbed to death by the accused Vishwanath alias Girish Sawant. Yashodha, a witness to the murder of her sister, has been demanding severe punishment for Sawant ever since Anjali's murder took place. She had also given a statement to the media in which she accused the police of negligence. She said the family members had approached Bendigeri Police Station after Sawant had threatened to kill Anjali at her residence. This matter was allegedly taken lightly by the police and no complaint was filed. After the murder, the police suspended a woman constable and an inspector of Bendigeri Police Station. On Sunday, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP leader Aravind Bellad called on the family members of Anjali. Meanwhile, Lingayat seers have been demanding suitable compensation for the family which is poor.

2 crushed under chariot, one with tattoo identified

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

IN a tragic incident, two persons were killed after they came under the wheel of a chariot at Ron town's Veerabhadreshwar annual fair on Saturday evening. The face of one of the victims was crushed after he fell down in front of the wheel. His identify could be established only on Sunday with the help of a tattoo on his hand. The deceased has been identified as Godachappa Barker from Ron. The other deceased is Mallappa Linganagoudrar (55), also from Ron taluk.

While some alert devotees managed to drag one person out, two others came under the chariot and were killed on the spot. Barker's face was fully crushed.

It became difficult to identify his body as he had no mobile or any identity card on him. But the police, with the help of some villagers, managed to identify him with the help of a tattoo on his hand. While he had a black thread tied to his right hand, his left hand had the tattoo with English letters RKPWMBA G LOVE V. When the police informed them about the tattoo, the family members knew it was Barker and started wailing. Ron MLA G S Patil gave Rs one lakh to the deceased.

Woman might not have eaten for 3 days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IT was suspected that Pragathi had not eaten anything for the last three days.

Jayanthi was suffering from diabetes and blood pressure, while Pragathi too was a diabetic. Some months ago, Pragathi's leg had been amputated following complications due to diabetes.

The police shifted Pragathi to hospital for treatment, where she died on Saturday.

A case was registered at the Kundapur police station.

The incident exposes the vulnerability of families where the elderly are left to fend for themselves with dependent children suffering from mental issues.

EXPRESS READ

Mom of rescued baby dies by suicide in Coimbatore

Coimbatore: A 33-year-old woman, whose eight-month-old baby was recently rescued from the balcony of an apartment complex in Thirumullaivoyal in Chennai, was found dead at her house in Karamadai of Coimbatore on Sunday. According to police, the deceased, V Ramya, had a history of depression. Ramya came to her father's house in Coimbatore two weeks ago. On Sunday, she stayed home alone while her family attended a function. When her husband, children, and parents returned, they found her unconscious and rushed her to a nearby hospital where Ramya was declared dead. Karamadai police arrived at the scene and initiated an investigation. Police said Ramya and her husband Venkatesh are IT employees. They resided in an apartment complex in Thirumullaivoyal along with their two children.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY
(PORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)
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SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. JNPA/PPD-Estate/Plot/T- 48 (R)/2024 dated 17.05.2024

On-line Tenders in single stage two cover system (Technical & Price Bids) and e-auction methodology are invited by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Navi Mumbai from 21.05.2024 to 18.06.2024 from experienced and reputed firms fulfilling Minimum Qualifying Criteria (MQC) for "ALLOTMENT OF LAND- PLOT NO.11 ON LONG TERM LEASE BASIS FOR SETTING UP OF TANK FARM FOR LIQUID STORAGE FACILITIES (EDIBLE AND LUBE OIL) AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT". Tender fee is 23,600/- (non- refundable). Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and the tender document is available on JNPA website www.jnport.gov.in or https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Chief General Manager (PP&D)

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OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tenders through MSTC Portal: -

1. ANNUAL CIVIL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR TOWNSHIP AREA AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/10/24-25/ET/18 [ACMC FOR TOWNSHIP AREA]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 007/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2024-25; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹114.61 LAKH]

Last date of tender submission – 21.06.2024 by 11:00 Hrs. For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit website www.mstcecommerce.com. Tender details are also available at our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Further extension or amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on the above websites.

Senior General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified by this public notice that my client by name Mr. PRABHAT KUMAR SINGH S/o Mr. Umeshwar Prasad Singh, (Aadhaar No.4004 1737 1303) Residing at Flat No. D-1201, Vaswani Reserve Apartments, Panathur Main Road, Opp. State Bank of Mysore, Kadubeesanahalli, Marathalli - Bellandur Outer Ring Road, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560103, has lost the original Sale Deed document dated.05.11.2007 vide Document No.BMH-1-04358/2007-08 of Book-1, Stored in C.D.No.BMHD334 which was registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore Urban District, and original Khetha certificate pertaining to the property bearing Residential Apartment semi finished Flat bearing No.1123 in first floor in 'B' Block, constructed out of converted Sy No.26/2, apartment known as "JANPRIYA LAKE VIEW PHASE-II" measuring 1050 Sq. Ft super built up area and 250.95 Sq. Ft Undivided share along with one covered car parking, Situated at KODICHIKKANAHALLI Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South taluk, Bangalore Urban District on 16.05.2024 at Xerox Shop near Marathahalli Circle, Bangalore and lodged a e-lost complaint to this effect on 18.05.2024. Any finder of the said original documents may kindly hand over to me or to the address mentioned above.

M. ANANDA, Advocate
Roll No.KAR 1007/95, No.1431,
Ground Floor, D' Souza Building, Begur Main Road, Near Sub-Registrar's Office, Begur, Bangalore-560114. Mob.: 9845343337.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients M/s DALEX PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED, Reg Office at No. 157/4/29, 30, 31, 32, Jakkur Plantation, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064. Represented by its directors Mr. SHEFEEK M @ SHEFEEK MAULAKKIRIATH and Mr. RASHEED ALI, intends to purchase the schedule property from Mrs. C.S. KAMALAMMA W/o. Late. S. Shankarachari and Mr. S. SRIDHAR S/o. Late. S. Shankarachari,Both are residing at No. 17/5, 1st Floor, 9th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560002.Those who are having any title, right, claim or interest in the Schedule property may contact me with their legitimate claims within 7 days, failing which my client will purchase the Schedule property, as the same is free from all claims/encumbrance and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the immovable Residentially converted land bearing Sy No. 40/5, Old Khatha No. 152, Meenukunte Village Panchayath Khatha No. 162/152, PID No. 150200203100900200, Vide conversion Order bearing No. B.DIS.ALN.SR (N) 246/1992-93, dated: 20/05/1993, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at Meenukunte Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, totally measuring 4208.04 sq.meters , and bounded on: East by: National Highway No.7; West by: Land belongs to Mr. Kempanna; North by : Land belongs to Mr. Munishamaiah and Mr. M.K. Muniraju; South by: Land belongs to Matsu.

K. AJAYAKUMAR, Advocate,
M/s AJAY & ASSOCIATES,
18, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Garden,
Devegowda Road, R .T. Nagar Post,
Bangalore-560 032.
Ph.(0) 080-49900563 & 080-48506640,
Mob.9880140512.

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
Phone 26677552, 26679041

PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The Borrower **Smt. Baby K and Co Applicant Sri Eshwarappa M, No.106, 2nd Main, 1st Cross, Near IIMB, Arekere B.G.Road, Sarvabhoumanagar, Bangalore-560076. Surety: Sri Chitti Babu, S/o Sri Krishna Swamy G.** The debt due to Bank as on **16.05.2024** of **Rs.70,71,810/-** + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"on 21.06.2024, Friday at 11.00 am.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/(s) and Guarantor/(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **Symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel eastern portion of Residential Property bearing No.106 B, Khatha No.98/1/138/3/106B, Ward No.188, Situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now called as Sarvabhoumanagar, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 40 ft and North to South: 60 ft along with 400 sq.ft residential building and bounded on East By: Site No.105, West By: Property belongs to Smt.K.Baby, North By: Site Nos.86 & 85 and South By: Road.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount Rs.17,68,000/- equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price Rs.1,76,80,000/- being cautioned deposit by means of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of M/s.The Grain Merchant's Co.Operative Bank Ltd., The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.

(3) The Property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price

(4) In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount shall be refund without interest.

(5) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction.

(6) The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/electricity charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws.

(7) The authorized officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all if the tender or/bid/ offer and/or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the auction sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice.

(8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(9) The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at his/her expenses at the address mentioned in the schedule.

(10) The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" AND "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** the intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title,ownership,statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 16.05.2024

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,

EDITORIAL

Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon in the sense that it is and can be produced only by a more rapid increase in the quantity of money than in output

Milton Friedman

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

GO BEYOND INCREMENTAL SAFEGUARDS, OVERHAUL DRACONIAN LAWS

IT'S a law that was introduced to align with international norms on flushing out terror funding and arresting the movement of illicit money across borders. In line with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) created in 1989 for global coordination to stem money laundering, Parliament cleared the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002 to tackle serious crimes like narcotics trade and terror financing. Subsequent PMLA iterations to meet FATF stipulations opened the entry point to deal with all sorts of crimes, as the lower cap of ₹30 lakh in tainted assets to attract the law was dropped. By and by, the PMLA acquired fangs, especially after opposition-ruled states barred the automatic registration of cases by the CBI. To overcome these limitations, the Enforcement Directorate became the chosen agency and the PMLA the preferred statute. All the ED needed to get into play was an FIR by local law enforcement authority anywhere in India. The ED could then register its own case under the PMLA and launch a parallel probe. That was how it went after the AAP in Delhi, the JMM in Jharkhand and the TMC in West Bengal. Getting bail under the PMLA is difficult, which is why the Sisodias continue to be in judicial custody for months. The problem got compounded after a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the ED's powers under that law. That verdict is now under challenge.

Mercifully, another bench of the Supreme Court last week added a layer of protection under the PMLA, ruling that the ED can't arrest an accused after a court takes cognisance of a complaint on money laundering against the individual and issues summons. The agency has to seek the court's permission to do so, else it would go against the right to liberty. In the NewsClick case, a different bench of the Supreme Court declared the arrest of its founder Prabir Purkayastha under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act invalid based on a technicality - the failure of the probe agency to inform the accused or his counsel in writing about the grounds before his arrest.

All these are but incremental reliefs. The ideal solution would be to revisit the draconian laws to dismantle the scope of their rights abuse irrespective of the party in power. It's all the more important as the new criminal laws would kick in from July 1.

CONGRESS CANNOT TAKE KERALA FOR GRANTED

BARELY days after the Lok Sabha elections concluded in Kerala, the Congress state unit is grappling with a crisis, and it has none other than KPCC president K Sudhakaran at its crux. Though AICC did blink and allow Sudhakaran—who had handed over the charge to another leader as he was a candidate in the LS polls—to return as KPCC president, signals emanating from the party show that all is not well. Both opposition leader V D Satheesan and the temporary KPCC chief M M Hassan had skipped the event where Sudhakaran re-assumed the charge. Sudhakaran—known for his acerbic retorts and loose tongue—did not hide his resentment over their absence and made snide remarks about them while talking to the media. The matter has not been settled.

Post LS polls, the party high command is being flooded with letters favouring and opposing Sudhakaran and Satheesan. The duo was chosen as an antidote to everything that was plaguing the party after it got drubbed in the 20121 Assembly elections. Sudhakaran, with his sharp retorts to C M Pinarayi Vijayan and his efforts to create a cadre system, did manage to re-energise the party initially after he took charge. But the hype did not last long as he could not carry out the organisational revamp as per the plan. The party went into the LS election with no booth committees in place in several constituencies. UDF partners were shocked at the breakdown of the organisational structure and conveyed their displeasure to the Congress leadership. The public spat between the KPCC president and Opposition leader also had put the party in a bad light.

Despite all the shortcoming of its Kerala unit, the southern state is still one of the strongest bastions of the Congress party. But it has got more to do with the prevailing anti-CPM sentiments in the state and less with the organisational strength of the Congress party. So, even if the grand old part manages to win handsomely in Kerala, it should not be taken as an affirmative vote for the Congress in the LS elections. In other words, the Congress party should not take Kerala for granted, especially as the BJP is gradually carving out a space for itself in the state. Local body elections will take place next year and the Assembly election will follow immediately after that. After being out of power in the state for two consecutive terms, the Congress party cannot afford to lose one more round of elections. The KPCC must put its house in order at the earliest if it doesn't want to follow the fate of its counterparts in other states.

QUICK TAKE

RIGHT TO KNOW MORE

THE Supreme Court's recent observation that consumers have a right to know what manufacturers and advertisers are offering should nudge the government to strengthen the rules on food labelling, apart from directing companies to pre-screen fraudulent ads. This comes at a time when more studies, including a landmark 30-year one published recently in the *BMJ*, are linking consumption of ultra-processed food with premature death. From merely mentioning contents, we should move to brief explanations of what the ingredients mean for our health, as some food segments in Europe require. Meanwhile, our schools should focus more on the benefits of balanced diets.

The best way to help 'price-takers' is through the creation of a rights-based welfare state that provides a set of universal economic rights to all citizens on par with the Constitution

ECONOMIC DISTRESS AND THE WAYS TO ALLEVIATE IT

PRABHAT PATNAIK

Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University

SOURAV ROY

IF every social group's relative share in total output was inflexible downward, then the slightest attempt by any group to raise its share would push prices sky-high. Inflation would be explosive despite there being no supply constraints. This, however, does not happen under capitalism, because the relative shares of some groups can be pushed down without arousing much resistance. These groups are called 'price-takers'; their existence is what keeps inflation under control in a capitalist economy, though even they would not eliminate inflation if others continuously raise their shares.

An alternative way of keeping inflation restrained is through government intervention that protects price-takers by subsidising the costs of what they buy, and finances it by taxing those who raise their shares. This means keeping shares broadly unchanged after the impact of taxes and subsidies has been taken into account.

India before the liberalisation era sought to use such a fiscal instrument against inflation. Under neoliberalism, however, as subsidies are whittled down (thus raising farm input prices, for instance) and the privatisation of essential services like education and healthcare further removes the fiscal protection offered to the poor, inflation control necessarily takes the form of reducing working people to the status of price-takers. If inflation persists under neoliberalism, the reason lies partly in the fact that this process of making working people into price-takers is not completed (Modi's three farm laws, for instance, that would have reduced kisans into price-takers were withdrawn in the face of stiff resistance), partly in the fact that the rise of the share of the affluent is a continuous process. Thus, leaving aside specific factors such as tomato or onion shortage, or the fall-out of the Ukraine war, inflation in India in the neoliberal era is the expression of a rising share of economic surplus in total output. It is a means of effecting a continuous rise in income inequality that is a characteristic of neoliberalism.

The working people consume virtually their entire income in any period, while the affluent consume only a fraction of theirs. Such a rising share of economic surplus causes a fall in the ratio of consumption to total output (borrowing for consumption by working people can never fully offset this). This lowers aggregate demand and aggravates unemployment.

A neoliberal economy, even in the absence of any deficiency of aggregate demand, is characterised anyway by growing unemployment for two other reasons: first, the crisis of petty production, especially of the agricultural sector, that arises because of the withdrawal of state support from this sector displaces many farmers from their traditional occupation and forces them to look for jobs elsewhere. Second, trade liberalisation intensifies competition in the market and hastens technological-cum-structural change that increases the rate of growth of labour productivity in the economy, and correspondingly lowers the rate of growth of employment (which is the excess of the GDP growth-rate over that of labour productivity). Employment growth, therefore, far from absorbing the displaced farmers, may not even absorb the natural increase in the workforce, causing a rise in the unemployment rate. The deficiency of aggregate demand, arising from the rising share of economic surplus in output, further compounds this growth of unemployment and aggravates economic distress. This is what we see in India today.

Since we have a largely casualised workforce, growing unemployment takes the form not necessarily of more people remaining jobless but of a given number of jobs being distributed among more people; it does not therefore get adequately captured through standard measures. Even so, data from the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE) show an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent for April, which is higher than any annual rate since the CMIE's estimates began. The fall in real wages of large sections of rural workers over the last decade, including even construction workers, a well-established phenomenon from available data, would have been unlikely in the absence of growing unemployment.

We thus have a mutually-reinforcing process of distress being visited upon the working people: inflation keeping down real wages, causing a rise in the share of surplus, which in turn causes a deficiency of aggregate demand that further aggravates unemployment. Not surprisingly, the proportion of total population of the country that is below what used to be considered the minimum calorific norms (2200 per person per day in rural India and 2100 in urban India) is higher today than in 1973-74 when such estimates were first made. The distress today is thus greater than half a century ago.

The aggravation of unemployment, it may be thought, would bring down inflation by forcing even larger numbers to become price-takers. Indeed, this is typically how inflation is sought to be controlled under capitalism. But this only visits the inflation-caused distress in a different form on the same victims. If at the given wages, prices rise by 10 percent, real wages fall by 10 percent. But the same happens if wages fall by 10 percent but prices remain unchanged. In the latter case, inflation has abated but not distress.

What is required, therefore, is an alleviation of distress, which can also create a mutually-reinforcing spiral of improvement: greater purchasing power in the hands of the working people will generate a larger demand for goods and services that will increase employment, and hence living standards still further. The existence of unused productive capacity and unemployed manpower that is a symptom of distress has thus great potential for overcoming distress too.

The best way to bring this about is through the creation of a rights-based welfare state that provides a set of justiciable, universal economic rights to all citizens on par with the fundamental civil and political rights enshrined in the Constitution. Five such rights—to food, employment, free quality education in public institutions, free quality healthcare through a National Health Service, and a non-contributory living old-age pension scheme with disability benefits—can be financed, it is estimated, by imposing just two taxes on the top 1 percent of the population. These are a 2 percent wealth tax, and a one-third inheritance tax. Such a programme, rather than one that forces people to become price-takers in the name of controlling inflation, is what is required.

(Views are personal)

THE MARVELLOUS NARRATIVE TRADITION OF OUR COUNTRY

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

RETELLING Indian *katha* through 3,000 years of stories has been the most marvellous adventure for me as a 21st-century inheritor of our storytelling tradition. Naturally, this effort made me look closely at the nature of this inheritance. Here are some points that struck me, and I would love to know what you think.

My top point: we're very lucky to have had many master storytellers. The two outstanding examples are Valmiki, the author of the *Ramayana*, and Vyasa, the author of the *Mahabharata*. They're subtle, they love detail, and they're kings of suspense and irony, especially Vyasa. My second point: the oral tradition through which their stories were passed on is actually an experience of theatre. These stories were in fact turned into myriad forms of regional theatre that flourish even today.

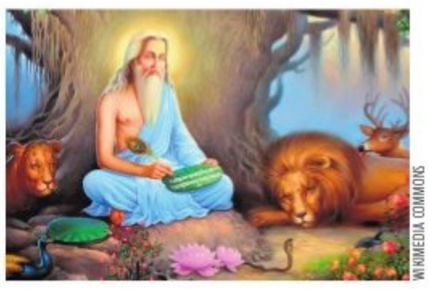
Even in informal settings, anyone who tells these stories instinctively drops or raises their voices, stops at a crucial moment to increase its drama, and asks leading questions like "What do you think happened next?" These storytellers could be granny at bedtime, the *pauranikar* or *kathakar*—the traditional storyteller at the temple—or a campfire artiste. It could be someone on your screen or in print. Professional storytellers also use songs to heighten a dramatic moment and give listeners time to experience an emotion, be it sad, happy, afraid or ablaze with wonder.

In particular, I like the emotional responsibility our religious story-telling tradition shows towards its listeners. This is how I think it works. Firstly, why are these stories told in our religious tradition? They're told to heighten awareness of the complexity of life in listeners, the nature of relationships, and the seasonal beauty of nature. The story aims to stimulate the listener's capacity to think. A deeper purpose is to instil and increase God-love, and through it, fellow feelings for humanity.

The goal is to increase the listener's Emotional Quotient, not merely the IQ. These stories want us to know how to respond to various situations; in fact, they're a directory of responses.

Now comes the moment of utmost emotional responsibility. At the end, a master storyteller reconnects the listener gently with real life. Dreadful things may happen to the characters but usually, the Indian fabulist likes to stop at a hope point so people go home touched, pleased and energised. This comes from the very basis of 'Hinduism'—*ananda* or happiness, a gladness of being in thought, word and deed that comes from 'realising God'.

So far, we've ticked off skill, delivery, broad areas of engagement and deeper purpose. We've ticked off the key principle. What about content? What's actually there in an Indian *katha* to make people want to remember and retell it as they have done with *katha* these 3,000 years—not only in India but right around the Bay of Bengal and mainland Asia, across West Asia and Europe?



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> We're very lucky to have had many master storytellers. The two outstanding examples are Valmiki, the author of the *Ramayana*, and Vyasa, the author of the *Mahabharata*. They're subtle, they love detail, and they're kings of suspense and irony

The answer: a good story. Let's take a look at *Ramayana*, the ultimate Indian *katha* that does not end happily but caught so many hearts that it became the 'Epic of Asia'. Scholarly opinion has it that there is no other story on earth that comes close to the *Ramayana* in the extraordinary way it lives on through myriad tellings. Over the millennia, people had problems about the ambivalences—the seemingly less-than-perfect behaviour of Sri Rama in the episodes of Vali, Surpanakha and Sita's *Agnipariksha*. But these issues are present in the very first *Ramayana*, by Valmiki. They were not edited out but allowed to stay; Valmiki himself explains these situations. And yet, unlike the Vedas, which had to be memorised exactly with not a word changed, the *Ramayana* was treated as a beloved epic open to re-interpretation.

Why was it so important to make sense of the *Ramayana* and hang on to it, despite its few seemingly grey areas? In my view, it's because it touches the heart so deeply it is recognised as truth. There are apparently over 300 versions of the *Ramayana* and hundreds of oral narratives. Scholars say there are broadly two kinds. *Ramayanas* that deal with happiness in union and those that deal with the sorrow of separation. Sita is either banished or there's a *mangalam* ending. There are said to be more *Ramayanas* with a happy ending.

But sadness is truer to life, perhaps? Rama is never happy after Sita's banishment. Last month on Ram Navami, when I was in Ayodhya, I made my way down to the Sarayu to put water on my head. My local auto rickshaw driver took me through back lanes to a quiet stretch of the river, away from the crowds. I stood for a few minutes just looking at the river. I was suddenly overwhelmed by the thought that Sri Rama took *jal samadhi* in the Sarayu. My eyes filled with unbidden tears at the poignant memories that the Sarayu brims with, like the Ganga and Yamuna. If just the sight of the river had such a strong effect, we can understand the lasting impact of this luminous story and the extraordinary character of Sri Rama, the exemplary love of his brothers and the loyalty and grit of Sita, a princess who embraced stark hardship out of love.

In the north, there is an anthology of devotees' questions to Tulsidas called the Shankhavali that asks things like 'What did they eat in the forest', 'Which mother did they bow to first', and so on. Every region has some format in which the details of this epic are repeatedly raised. The *Ramayana* is but one stupendous example of the vast and fluid narrative tradition of our land that we are fortunate to take part in.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Scholarly knowledge

Ref: *Imagining the future through scholars past* (May 19). Sociologist and professor Jeet Singh Uberoi and psychoanalyst Sudhir Kakar, who both recently breathed their last, were outstanding scholars. The knowledge of scholars as they point out the maladies afflicting the government and society is welcome.

Ravi Nair, Palakkad

Thrilling game

Ref: *Delight for RCB, heartbreak for CSK* (May 19). The crucial match between five-time IPL champion Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore on Saturday was one of the most thrilling matches of this season. When RCB won the match, the huge crowd at the stadium celebrated the victory as if they were celebrating New Year's Day.

K S Aswathanarayana, Bengaluru

RCB's turnaround

For a team that has never been short of talent but has always been found wanting in performance, RCB has registered a remarkable turnaround in fortunes in the IPL, coasting to victory in six matches on the trot. The no-hopers who had lost seven matches are now in with a chance to lift the trophy for the first time if they can get through the qualifiers.

C V Aravind, Chennai

Political conspiracy

Delhi CM Aravind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar's arrest is a political tactic aimed at discrediting Kejriwal. The strategy of using females as part of a conspiracy is reminiscent of a 'wolf in sheep's clothing'. J P Nadda's statement serves as a cloak for their deceptive tactics. Arresting the victim without any FIR is the police's biggest misstep in this convoluted affair.

Mahammad Irfan, Mangaluru

Unpleasant campaigns

A brutal majority is always seen as a danger to India. We are seeing some of the most scurrilous deliberations flouted as election campaigns that were never seen in earlier polls, like the north-south division, religion, etc. The stakeholders of this exercise must understand their responsibility to save and protect our country's image.

Kaliappan Palaniswami, Salem

Improve quality

Ref: *Govt asks students to stay indoors in Kyrgyz capital* (May 19). Our government's swift action to protect Indian students at Bishkek is laudable. But the huge number of Indian students flocking to Kyrgyz for high-quality medical education at reasonable fees is bizarre. India should increase seats and upgrade education quality to global standards.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Anurag Thakur @ianuragthakur
The anti-property, anti-border, anti-Sanatan and anti-children face of the Congress has been exposed before the nation. We have saved the country from Congress

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
This wave of support is showing that the India Alliance government is going to be formed with a historic number of votes. BJP's defeat will be recorded.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Modi govt not afraid of Pak will take PoK back says Amit Shah. Why doesn't 56 inch govt first admit how much land China took in 5 years

Voters, visitors struggle to adjust to grandness of new temple

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CURIOUSLY, the INDIA coalition is not united in Ayodhya-Faizabad seat. Says Jai Shankar Pandey, general secretary, Samajwadi Party, "The Left should not have put up a candidate. Arvind Sen won't win, but will cut into our (SP-Congress combined) votes."

The once sleepy town of Ayodhya, the epicentre or 'epic centre' of the biggest political upheaval of contemporary India, now bustles with activity — what with a refurbished railway station, airport, five-star hotels in the making.

Both the voter and the visitor struggle to adjust to the grandness of the new temple, almost reduced to Lilliputs by its architectural scale — the shine of gold on the temple doors, the shining diamond-and-Burmese ruby tilak on the dark marble Ram Lalla, even the tempered steel barricades controlling the crowds into regimented queues. Hindutva here is organised, a far cry from the mobs of 1992, all synthetic sarees and saffron bandanas and sandal paste 'Jai Shri Ram' stamps on the foreheads.

The new temple elicits something akin to the reaction a grand museum would among the crowds — a hushed awe. It is religious in clothing, but functionally it is tourism. For actual puja and fulfilment of prayers, secret and loud, it's still the Hanumangarhi mandir that calls them. The crowds there are of the familiar sort — organic, pushy and spontaneous, literally falling over each other to get the best darshan. The footfalls at Hanumangarhi have increased manifold ever since the new temple came up a mile down the road, with those coming to Ayodhya from across India adding to the throng.

THE NEW TEMPLE ELICITS SOMETHING AKIN TO THE REACTION A GRAND MUSEUM WOULD AMONG THE CROWDS — A HUSHED AWE. IT IS RELIGIOUS IN CLOTHING, BUT FUNCTIONALLY IT IS TOURISM. FOR ACTUAL PUJA AND FULFILMENT OF PRAYERS, SECRET AND LOUD, IT'S STILL THE HANUMANGARHI MANDIR THAT CALLS THEM. CROWDS THERE ARE OF THE FAMILIAR SORT — FALLING OVER EACH OTHER TO GET THE BEST DARSHAN

The new temple complex is still not complete. Giant cranes and other mammoth beings from the world of modern construction are putting together this ode to ancient India. The town too, in a proper sense, is still under construction. Hotel reservations are not easy to come by, you need 'influence' to get a room if you don't plan early enough. What with a steady stream of Bollywood celebrities turning up every day.

The banks of the Sarayu are spruced up, decked boats float around to take those interested in taking a joy ride from being pilgrim to tourist. The shops leading up to the ghats are orderly and clean, so are the roads. No stray cattle canters around, there's no cow dung on the walkways. Calendar art frescoes adorn the walls, as do images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yes, even amidst all the time-travel, you are recalled to the electoral contest. Lallu Singh is deemed to have a chance, "despite his arrogance". Not because of the temple or its economic spinoffs but the fact that the BJP leaves nothing to chance — from campaign to booth management — says Prof Anil Kumar Singh of the local Saket college. There has been a bit of local discontent suppressed in the birthing of a new Ayodhya. The Ayodhyawaasi of 2024 has no time to look at the giant sculpted veena at the streetcorner and imagine a sweeter music.

Maliwal assault case: Cops seize CCTV DVR from Kejriwal's house

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

AS the investigation into the Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal assault case entered the third day on Sunday, the Delhi Police seized electronic devices, including a CCTV DVR (digital video recorder) from the official residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Earlier the police had said that they did not receive the Digital Video Recorder to access the May 13 footage as part of their probe.

Moreover the police, in its remand application submitted before the court, had stated that the CCTV footage provided by a junior engineer in a pen drive of the "relevant time" was found blank.

On tempering with the footage charge, the counsel for Bibhav Kumar, the CM's PA, replied that he got "no access" to the DVR as the same was under the control of PWD of the government of NCT of Delhi. "A footage of the relevant time when the alleged assault happened could be the most crucial piece of evidence," officers privy to the probe said.

According to the remand papers, Kumar had been terminated on April 19 but he continued to work at the CM's house which is a "sensitive place" in terms of security. "To rule out his connection with any anti-social elements or organisation, a sustained interrogation is required," the cops stated.

Mentioning that Bibhav Kumar has a criminal history, the remand note revealed that another case was also registered against in Noida for allegedly assaulting an on-duty public servant.

The police stated that an assault on an MP is a "very serious" matter and went on to say the attack could have "turned fatal". They also accused Kumar of being evasive in his replies and not cooperating with the probe.

According to the remand application, Maliwal's testimony before the magistrate was corroborated by medical evidence. That is, the medical check done at AIIMS which indicated bruises on her left thigh and right cheek, below the eye.

The cops had told the court that Bibhav formatted his I-Phone 15 in Mumbai for which he is required to be taken to Maharashtra as he may have probably retained a clone copy or saved his data in a hardware or computer.

Meanwhile, AAP, led by CM Arvind Kejriwal staged a protest close to BJP headquarters over Bibhav's arrest. However, the sit-in dharna was for mere 20 minutes.

Wheat procurement likely to miss target for 3rd year

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

IT IS going to be the third straight year when the Government of India will miss its wheat procurement target. Despite the bumper wheat production and additional bonus over minimum support price being provided in a few states, the farmers are unwilling to sell it to the government agencies.

Against the target of 372 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT), the government's procurement agencies acquired 257 LMT by May 16, 2024, which is less than 70% of its target and slightly less than the previous year.

"We are expecting our procurement to be around 267-268 LMT by the end of May," said Ashok K Meena, chief managing director, Food Corporation of India (FCI).

In view of lesser procurement, the Centre has extended its procurement deadline to May 31. As per schedule, wheat procurement was scheduled to end on May 10 in Rajasthan and on May 15 in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar.

This year's procurement is critical for the country's food security as the FCI missed its procurement target from the past two years. In April, India's buffer stock reached a seven-year low. On April 1, the wheat buffer stock reached 76 LMT, which was minimally above the required level.

India annually requires 184 LMT of wheat under its flagship National Food Security Scheme, to provide free grains to 80 crore people.

Meanwhile, in 2022-23, the government set a target to procure 440 LMT but was able to procure only around 42% of its target, or 187 LMT. Further in 2023-24, the government set a target to procure 341 LMT but ended up buying only 262 LMT.

In order to procure aggressively to keep up its buffer stock, the government didn't let traders, processors and stockists in the wheat market till May 31. Besides, the government also had put a stock limit on the private stockholders to refrain them from hoarding.

According to sources, this time the internal target was set to around 310-320 LMT.

"But the enthusiasm shown by the Uttar Pradesh government to contribute record wheat to the Central pool has increased our target," said a senior officer.

"Last year, UP contributed just over 2 LMT. This year, they showed commitment to contribute a whopping 60 LMT. Till now, UP contributed only 8.6 LMT," he added.

So far, Punjab is at the top of the list, followed by Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The contribution from Madhya Pradesh is a cause of concern. Last year, MP was over 12% shortfall of its stated target. This year MP has a shortfall of over 40% of its target.

Currently, the government provides Rs 2275 per quintal. Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh government have been providing additional Rs 125 per quintal bonus, which comes around ₹2,400.

Experts say farmers have stocked up wheat to sell later when wheat prices will go up in coming months.

LAGGING BEHIND

States	Target (LMT)	Procurement 2024-25	Procurement 2023-24
Punjab	130	123.4	120.4
Haryana	80	71	62.9
Madhya Pradesh	80	45.9	69.8
Uttar Pradesh	60	8.6	1.96
Rajasthan	20	8.4	3.5
Total (including 11 states)	372	257.58	256.86

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
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Trouble in Paradise

BJP'S FRIENDS IN KASHMIR TAKE ON EACH OTHER

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a keen battle for the six Lok Sabha seats from the region. The fight is especially interesting for the three seats of the Kashmir Valley, namely Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri. The BJP is trying to get a foothold in the valley by reportedly supporting two friendly parties – Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari and J&K People's Conference of Sajjad Lone. The two parties have joined hands for the elections. Apni Party has fielded candidates in Srinagar and Anantnag-Rajouri and is supporting Sajjad Lone in Baramulla. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who is contesting from Baramulla, and People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti, who is contesting from Anantnag-Rajouri, have accused the BJP of fighting a proxy battle against them through Bukhari and Lone. Allegations of use of government machinery, money and muscle power in support of the Apni Party and People's Conference candidates are flying thick and fast. But the real trouble for the BJP is the fight that has broken out between alliance partners Lone and Bukhari. There are reports that the two have turned against each other. Leaders and workers of the Apni Party took to social media platforms to claim that the People's Conference leadership has instructed its supporters to vote for the National Conference candidate in Srinagar. Union home minister Amit Shah's visit to Srinagar last week was reportedly aimed, inter alia, at bringing peace between the warring friends of the BJP. Sources, however, said that the two parties have drifted too far apart and are unlikely to pose any major challenge to the NC and PDP. Interestingly, former state chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has kept away from elections. He was approached by the Apni Party for an alliance, but he refused. He is reportedly preparing for the state elections, likely to be held later this year.

Maliwal Affair

KEJRIWAL'S PLAN TO AXE 3 RS MPs CAUSED TROUBLE

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal has decided to replace his party's three Rajya Sabha MPs – Swati Maliwal, Harbhajan Singh and Raghav Chadha. Sources said the party chief's decision has been communicated to the three and they have been asked to resign. The three AAP MPs were conspicuous by their absence during Kejriwal's arrest and incarceration. While Maliwal spent months in the United States despite the party wanting her to remain in Delhi, Chadha stayed away in London during the entire period between Kejriwal's arrest and his release on bail. Harbhajan has reportedly kept away from campaigning for the party in Punjab and elsewhere. The cricketer has also been accused of striking discordant notes on political issues. The altercation and the alleged assault on Maliwal occurred when she had gone to discuss the issue of her resignation from the Rajya Sabha. Sources said she told the AAP leader who had communicated Kejriwal's decision to her that the party had not done any favour by nominating her to Rajya Sabha. She said AAP was built by the combined efforts of a lot of people and all have earned the positions they have got. She has refused to give up her seat in the Rajya Sabha. Harbhajan Singh has also opposed the party's decision to sack him. In a tweet, he said he cannot start canvassing without the party giving him a programme. Chadha has returned from London and met the party leadership. With the party boss deciding to crack the whip, more fireworks are likely in the Aam Aadmi Party in the coming days.

Around 5,000 houses gutted as violence breaks out in Myanmar

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE situation in Myanmar continues to be on the boil with increased fighting between the military-led Junta army and the ethnic rebel groups across many parts specially in Rakhine state. The tensions have taken a communal turn with reports of nearly 5000 houses of Buddhists and Hindus being gutted in Buthidaung, which is just 25 kms away from Bangladesh border.

"These 5,000 houses were targeted as they belonged to Buddhists and Hindus. Most people had fled to safer zones so many houses were empty, but those who were left behind were pulled out and their houses looted and burnt in front of their eyes. Conscripts who include young boys from Rohingya camps in Bangladesh are being used for this exercise," according to a source.

These 5000 houses were gutted between April 11 and 21. Buthidaung is now under complete control of rebel ethnic group Arakan Army.

Reports suggest that most of the local Muslims living in Buthidaung and Maungdaw township are not supporting the communal divide and some have sought help of the ethnic rebels to move to safer zones.

"In 2018 census there were 3,000 houses in Buthidaung. This number has increased more than threefold to 10,000 as many people fled their homes from other areas to settle here. Over 50 per cent residents are Muslims while the remaining are ethnic groups (Buddhists, Hindus)," according to a source. It may be recalled that communal tensions had flared up in Rakhine state more than a decade back, which led to the exodus of Rohingiyas and many of them sought refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh.

"Some Rohingyas from refugee camps are being forced as conscripts and even though a few flee, the others end up fighting the civilians. This strategy of divide and rule will worsen things on the ground," a source added. Thousands of young people from across Myanmar have fled to safer zones, some have even crossed over to other countries to avoid forced conscription.

Meanwhile, recently, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, Hasan Mahmud said that they were hoping that the Rohingya refugees they are sheltering hosting would return to Myanmar. There are said to be one million Rohingiyas in Bangladesh.

There are reports of 138 Myanmar military personnel including a lieutenant colonel and two majors of Myanmar who have taken refuge in Bangladesh.

"They will be sent back the same way as other military men were repatriated," Mahmud said last week adding that the Rohingiyas too wanted to return. Meanwhile, people who have fled are facing survival issues due to lack of livelihood facilities. The only respite will happen in Myanmar once monsoons begin in a few weeks. Mobility becomes restricted and the clashes on the grounds reduce drastically for nearly two months.

Cyclone likely over south Bay of Bengal in 3-4 days

JITENDRA CHOUBEYN @ New Delhi

A cyclone is likely to develop in the next 3-4 days as favourable ocean and atmospheric conditions have been evolving over the south Bay of Bengal, experts said.

The sea surface temperature (SST) is warmer than normal by 2–3°C and Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) – an eastward travelling band of clouds – is reaching the south Bay of Bengal providing favourable conditions.

Climate experts say persistently high SST provides constant supply of heat and moisture, essential for cyclone formation and MJO provides a rotational trigger for the cyclones to happen.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has confirmed the formation of a low pressure area on May 22 but is yet to declare formation of a cyclone. "A low pressure area is likely to form over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 22 which may form a depression by May 24," the IMD said.

"It may evolve as a cyclone 'Remal' moving to the east coast," said a senior scientist at IMD. However, advancing southwest monsoon wind may come as a restricting factor. "If that's the case, this will end up as a monsoon depression bringing rains, otherwise, it could develop into a weak cyclone of a short duration," said Dr Roxy Koll, a climate scientist and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lead author.

> **A low pressure area is likely to form over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 22 which may form a depression by May 24. It may evolve as a cyclone 'Remal' moving to the east coast**
>
> IMD scientist

Moreover, Vineet Kumar, research scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, who tracks ocean-cyclone activity said the way monsoon winds are strengthening in Bay, a major cyclone is unlikely. "A depression will surely form, further intensification remains uncertain," said Kumar. Southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of Maldives & Comorin area and some parts of aouth Bay of Bengal, Nicobar Islands and south Andaman Sea as of May 19. Southwest monsoon is nearly a week ahead of the ideal schedule, IMD said.

Further, IMD also warned of a low to moderate flashfloods risk over southern parts of Kerala and Mahe and southern Tamil Nadu districts due to existing cyclonic circulation-induced heavy rainfall occurrence in next 24 hours. IMD has also stated that heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are likely to continue over plains of northwest India, east & central India in next five days.

EXPRESS READ

Pregnant woman carried 11 km, loses child

A pregnant woman from Sorag village of Uttarakhand lost her unborn child due to lack of timely medical intervention. According to a report, the residents of Sorag village undertook a challenging journey of 11 kilometres through rough and remote areas to take the pregnant woman to the hospital for delivery. However, she lost her child. The District Magistrate of Bageshwar Anuradha Pal asked the sub-divisional magistrate to probe the matter. "An inquiry will be held in this regard to determine why arrangements were not made earlier at the departmental level when the condition of the pregnant woman was already known," Pal said.

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	40	28	Mumbai	33	27
Bhopal	39	23	Panaji	33	26
Jaipur	38	28	Patna	41	25
Amritsar	37	23	Lucknow	39	24
Chennai	37	31	Port Blair	33	27
Kolkata	41	28	Imphal	29	18
Srinagar	23	11	Chandigarh	37	25

'We will drastically improve our tally from South & East'

BJP president JP Nadda says party has no agenda to amend the Constitution, Opposition misleading people with false narrative and fanning it across the country

BJP chief **Jagat Prakash Nadda** asserts there is no anti-incumbency in the general election because of the people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and "no trust" at all in Opposition which is 'muddavihin" (issueless) and "Sankalp-rahit" (without resolve). He says the BJP has no agenda to amend the Constitution. "We are committed to preserving the vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution", he said in an interview with **Rajesh Kumar Thakur.** Excerpts:

BJP and its NDA allies allege the Opposition, led by Congress, has a plan to cut into the quotas of SC/STs and OBCs to give them to Muslims...

Two facts need to be kept in mind: one is that the Congress never wanted reservation for OBCs. The Congress followed the policy of Muslim appeasement. Nehru ji, Indira ji and Rajiv Gandhi did not implement reservation for OBCs. Rajiv Gandhi, as the leader of opposition, had vehemently opposed it on the floor of the Lok Sabha when it was debated during the VP Singh regime. Dr Manmohan Singh had categorically said that the first right on the nation's resources is that of minorities, especially Muslims. He never retracted and Congress also never distanced itself from his comment. It is beyond doubt that Congress wants to provide reservation to Muslims; they made attempts in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Their earlier attempts were thwarted by courts. It was well settled since Independence that there would be no reservation on the basis of religion.

You have set a target of 400-plus seats for NDA. From where will you win so many seats?

We are going to drastically improve our tally from South and East. We are largely retaining our tally in the rest of the country, in some cases even improving our performance. We set this target based on the ground assessment.

The INDIA bloc claims that the polling percentage in the last phases was poor due to anti-incumbency against the Modi government. Your opinion.

I cannot stop anyone from daydreaming. But, the fact is that supporters of that alliance are not coming out to vote seeing no hope in the opportunistic alliance. This could be one of the few reasons for the low polling. Besides, hot weather is also causing a marginal drop in the voting percentage.

The Opposition says inflation and unemployment are the two key issues against the Modi government. How do you counter it?

They (Opposition leaders) are masters in misleading the people through false narratives and fanning them across the country. These existential threats have emerged after the Modi government heralded a new era of development politics. Everyone knows how inflation has been kept under control by the government. It never went into double digits despite severe global disruptions due to Covid, the Russia-Ukraine armed conflict and the West Asia unrest. As far as employment is concerned, the Modi Govt has created enormous job opportunities through various schemes and it is reflected in EPFO and RBI data. The Opposition is not referring to the official data but trying to mislead people by magnifying data from unverified sources.

The latest PLFS data of the last six years suggest that employment has increased in the country from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 56% in 2022-23. Similarly, the labour force participation has also gone up from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23. The unemployment rate has declined from 6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2022-23. Unemployment rate in rural areas has declined from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.4% in 2022-23. In urban areas, it has reduced from 7.7% to 5.4% during the same period.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal claims that Modi will not be the PM after he is 75 years of age in September 2025. Your reaction.

It's yet another fake narrative that they are attempting to create. Let me tell Arvind Kejriwal and company and INDIA partners that you have nothing to be happy about Modi ji turning 75. There is no such provision in the BJP constitution. Narendra Modi ji will complete his tenure and he will continue to lead the country in the future.

What's your projection of seats from South Indian states?

Polling has just happened in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. So I won't be able to give the exact number of seats, but I can tell you with certainty that BJP will emerge as the single largest party in South. We will be winning seats in all the states.

Do you see the BJP candidate from Rae Bareli defeating Rahul Gandhi from the traditional seat of the Gandhi family?

Isn't it true that Amethi too was considered a traditional seat of the Gandhi family? He lost Amethi in 2019 and this time, he chose not to contest from the so-called traditional Gandhi family seat. As far as Rae Bareli is concerned, our candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh contested in 2019 too. Sonia Gandhi's victory margin hit a low for the first time in 15 years.

POLLING HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE IN ANDHRA & TELANGANA. SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE THE EXACT NUMBER OF SEATS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU WITH CERTAINTY THAT BJP WILL EMERGE AS THE SINGLE LARGEST PARTY IN SOUTH. WE WILL WIN SEATS IN ALL STATES

The Opposition accuses you of planning to amend the Constitution to curtail reservation....

We have no such agenda. We are committed to preserving the vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution.

In Odisha, your party is contesting without having an alliance with BJD which had supported you on the national level. Has the relationship with the party deteriorated?

BJP and BJD fought elections separately in 2009, 2014 & 2019 as well, so nothing is new about it. As far as supporting the government on national issues is concerned, it is a different matter. We are competing in an election that does not mean we are enemies. In a democracy, no one is an enemy and every party has a role to play in nation building.

What's your projection about Delhi's 7 seats?

The BJP will retain all the 7 seats. As far as the Congress candidate (KanhaiyaKumar) is concerned, it is a confirmation that Congress and its partners support the 'tukde tukde gang'.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal says his bail is a victory of democracy. How do you take it?

At least they agree that democracy is alive and thriving in India. It clearly shows that opposition's allegations and manufactured narratives in India and abroad about the state of Indian democracy are wrong.

Rahul using Maoist language, says Modi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN an election rally at Ghatshila in Jamshedpur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Congress and JMM do not know even the A, B, C of development. He also lashed out at the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi, asserting that any industrialist will think 50 times before investing in states ruled by the party, owing to the 'shehzada's use of Maoist language'.

The prime minister's allegations came in the backdrop of the Congress leader's recent comments, referring to a speech by Modi in which he had stated that the party received money from top industrialists. In the Jamshedpur rally where he campaigned for BJP's Bidyut Baran Mahto, Modi asserted that he has broken the backbone of the Naxals, but the Congress and JMM have taken the responsibility of "extorting funds". Modi also wanted to know the stand of the Chief Ministers of the Congress ruled states on the issue.

"Congress' crown prince (Rahul Gandhi) opposes industries, industrialists, investments. Which industrialist would invest in Congress ruled states....what will happen to the youths of these states," asked the Prime Minister. Industrialists have started saying that they will not got the Congress ruled states as their ideology is anti-industrialist ...Industrialists are cursed in those states, he added.

"Chief Ministers of Congress and its alliance partner ruled states must clear their stand whether they are with the statement made by the Congress crown prince or they are against it," said Modi.

He further added that the Congress doesn't let any businessman work in their areas without taking levy from them.

"Modi has driven away the Maoists, therefore, the Congress and JMM have taken the responsibility of collecting levy from the businessmen," said the Prime Minister, adding, "Congress never cared for you...they only gave the slogan of *garibi hatao*, but Modi is the son of a poor mother and knows what is poverty is and hence he has pulled out 25 crore people from poverty."

Referring to Rahul Gandhi contesting Lok Sabha polls from Raebareli, he said that nepotistic parties consider the country as their personal property. "You must have seen that the Congress crown prince has reached Raebareli after running away from Wayanad saying that the seat belongs to his mother. Even a school child would not say that the school belongs to his father even if his father had studied there. His mother also went to Raebareli and said that she is handing over her son to them. Whether they did not get a single congress worker who had been serving the family for the last 50 years, whom they could have fielded from there," said the Prime Minister.

Modi said that it is nepotism that writes their will of the parliamentary seats for their children, adding, "These people, talk about imposing tax on hard properties, which means your children will not get the properties earned in your lifetime, it will be grabbed by the Congress."

The PM also alleged that the Jharkhand government was creating hurdles in the way of the proposed Dhalbhumgarh airport in East Singhbhum.

PM Narendra Modi in Bhubaneswar on Sunday | EXPRESS

'Cong, JMM have nothing to do with development'

PM said the Congress and JMM have nothing to do with the development as they are 'neck-deep in corruption'. "Congress is the mother of corruption, it has been involved in scams... JMM and Congress are not concerned about industries... Jharkhand, despite its rich resources, is known for heaps of black money with corrupt leaders," Modi said

Cong doesn't favour reservations based on religion: Jairam Ramesh

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

FORMER union minister and Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday claimed that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would not be able to open its account in south India while its seat tally would be half in the rest of the country.

Talking to media persons at Sadaquat Ashram, Congress party's headquarters, Ramesh said that the opposition 'INDIA' bloc has already secured a clear majority in the first four phases of ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

"This is the reason there is a distinct change in the language of PM Modi's speech," he asserted. The former union minister said that NDA allies were trying to distract people's attention by using words like 'Mangal Sutra', 'Bhains' (buffalo), temple and mosque. He said that PM is using these words frequently during his speech in election rallies across the country.

Earlier, PM used to tell people about 'Modi Ki Guarantee' and 'Abki baar 400 ke paar'. Ramesh said that while the ruling dispensation talked about '400 ke paar', 'INDI' Alliance is making efforts to ensure ₹400 as minimum wages (per day).

Claiming that there was no 'lahar' (wave) in this election, Congress leader said that there was strong resentment against the NDA government at the centre among youths and workers. There are no jobs for youth and workers are falling victims of price rise, he added.

He claimed that Congress fulfilled its promises made to the people of Karnataka and Telangana in south India. He wondered why PM Modi was silent on caste census. "People want to know from PM Modi whether he is in favour of caste. He accused the Modi government of ignoring the welfare of farmers across the country. "While loans of big corporate houses have been waived off, farmers were facing the brunt of the government for not paying loans. Why there is such discrimination, he asked.

Congress leader, however, distanced himself from RJD chief Lalu Prasad's statement on reservation to Muslims. Initially he avoided media queries but later said that Congress party has never supported reservation given to people based on religions.

While loans of big corporate houses have been waived, farmers were facing the brunt of the government for not paying loans. Why there is such discrimination

Jairam Ramesh, Former union minister and Congress general secretary

ELECTION2024

Over 1K Mizoram cops unable to vote

More than 1,000 policemen in Mizoram were unable to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha polls held on April 19, officials of the state election department said. These personnel were deployed in other states for poll duty several days before April 19, the day when the northeastern state voted, they added. Although arrangements were supposed to be made for them, no such provision was made as they had to leave the state before candidates could be finalised, officials said.

Modi to address 2 rallies in Himachal

PM Narendra Modi will address two election rallies — in Sirmaur and Mandi — in Himachal Pradesh on May 24, BJP leaders said on Sunday. Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur and state BJP chief Rajiv Bindal said that the prime minister will address a rally in support of BJP candidate from the Shimla parliamentary constituency Suresh Kashyap at Nahan. The rally will be followed by another in Mandi to garner support for Kangana Ranaut.

Attempts to influence voters: Maha parties

On the eve of Lok Sabha polls in Mumbai, both Shiv Senas, one led by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and other by Uddhav Thackeray claimed that attempts were being made to influence voters. Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray shared on X an invitation by Lodha Foundation which said state minister and a BJP leader wished to interact with people of south Mumbai to 'learn about their civic issues'.

SAD promises to seek transfer of Kartarpur Sahib from Pak

HARPREET BAJWA @ Jalandhar

THE Shiromani Akali Dal has said it will seek transfer of Kartarpur Sahib from Pakistan to India through mutual land exchange between the two countries. The Kartarpur corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab.

While releasing the manifesto for the parliamentary elections on Saturday, the SAD also demanded opening of Attari and Hussainiwala borders with Pakistan for trade and tourism. It also announced to oppose any move to enforce Uniform Civil Code.

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "The party will work through the Union government seeking that the requirement for passports for pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib be dropped and be replaced with a simple permit system." Badal said his party makes a commitment to renew the fight for the inclusion of Chandigarh and other Punjabi-speaking areas left out of the state.

"Chandigarh was categorically declared to belong to Punjab and was to remain a Union Territory only for five years. We will fight the betrayal of Union government with Punjab on this with renewed force," the manifesto said.

It also announced to oppose any move at enforcing UCC. "The party will seek to put an end to the dangerous interference in Sikh religious affairs by non-Sikh forces who have been using some disgruntled Sikh elements as cosmetic front for their nefarious designs to weaken the Panth from within," said the manifesto.

It added that apart from "discriminating" against the Sikhs, the Centre is "discriminating against and terrorising other minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Bodhis and Jainis. SAD will champion their cause in every sphere."

It further stated that with people's mandate, it will move to cancel all decisions and settlements on river waters that have been made without Punjab's concurrence and in violation of the nationally accepted riparian principle. "The party will seek royalty on its river water given to non-riparian states and will take all political or legal steps necessary for this," Badal said.

Can jailed ex-MLA spring surprise in NC bastion Baramulla?

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE entry of jailed ex-MLA Sheikh Abdur Rashid alias Er Rashid, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail, into the poll fray has made the contest in the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, which is going to polls in 5th phase on Monday, very interesting. It remains to be seen whether jailed leader can spring a surprise from the constituency, which has remained the bastion of J&K's grand old party National Conference.

The poll campaign of jailed Er Rashid, the two-time ex-MLA has been booked under the UAPA charges and is lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail since August 2019, was led by his 26-year old son Abrar Rashid in his absence.

His son travelled all the four districts of the Baramulla constituency – Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora (north Kashmir) and Budgam in central Kashmir – to campaign for his jailed father. He held road shows, corner meetings and his poll campaign drew large crowds.

"I was expecting my father's release for a brief period for poll campaigning as was the case with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. Although Kejriwal was granted relief but my father was not," said Abrar adding this forced him to come on the front and launch a poll campaign for his father.

"I have no political experience and neither do any of my family members. The circumstances forced me to do poll campaigning for my father," he said. He said it was very dull campaigning initially but later the momentum picked up and people including youth and old are participating in rallies.

90 years old

Black astronaut of America Ed Dwight goes to space on Bezos rocket for first time

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • SN: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	16	SNY	Los Angeles	20	13	SNY
Colombo	30	27	LR	Melbourne	15	9	LR
Dhaka	35	29	SNY	Moscow	23	11	SNY
Dubai	34	28	SNY	New York	22	13	LC
Houston	32	25	SNY	Singapore	31	28	LR
Istanbul	22	14	SNY	Toronto	23	16	SNY
London	20	10	SNY	Washington	19	10	SNY

US, Saudi restart security talks upended by Hamas attack

DUBAI

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's national security adviser on Sunday met Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss what the kingdom described as the "semi-final" version of a wide-ranging security agreement between the countries. The announcement by the state-run *Saudi Press Agency* comes as the strategic deal had been upended after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage back to the Gaza Strip. In the time since, a punishing Israeli airstrike campaign and ground offensive in Gaza, endangered the security deal that had included Saudi Arabia diplomatically recognizing Israel for the first time since its founding in 1948.

Saudi state media released no images of Jake Sullivan and Prince Mohammed meeting in Dhahran, a city in the kingdom's far east that's home to its state-run oil giant, the Saudi Arabian Oil Co. known as Saudi Aramco.

"The semi-final version of the draft strategic agreements between the kingdom and the United States of America, which are almost being finalised—and what is being worked on between the two sides in the Palestinian issue to find a credible path — were discussed," the statement released after the talks said. That included "a two-state solution that meets the aspirations and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" and "the situation in Gaza and the need to stop the war there and facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid," the statement added. The White House had acknowledged Sullivan's trip and that he would later head on to Israel, where he's scheduled meet Netanyahu on Sunday.

However, there was no immediate statement from the US on the discussions. *AP*

A Ukrainian police officer and war crime prosecutor inspect fragments of a glide bomb in front of damaged house in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Saturday | AP

11 killed in Ukraine's northeast as Russian offensive presses ahead

KYIV

AT least 11 people were reported killed in attacks in Ukraine's war-ravaged northeast on Sunday as Russia pushed ahead with its renewed offensive.

In the Kharkiv region, the focus of the offensive, the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office said six people were killed and 27 wounded in a Russian strike on the outskirts of the regional capital, also called Kharkiv.

Regional Gov. Oleh Synyehubov said that five more people were killed and nine wounded in an attack on the region's Kupiansk district, southeast of the regional capital.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Sunday that its forces in the area were "continuing to advance into the depths of the enemy's defense." Ukraine's General Staff said Russia had stepped up its attacks around Kharkiv and that the situation was "dynamic."

Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv region late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners. Ukraine's overstretched forces are trying to slow Russia on the new front by using bomb-laden drones to destroy military vehicles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday during a visit to China that Moscow's offensive in the Kharkiv region aims to create a buffer zone but that there are no plans to capture the city.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and Russia continued to exchange drone attacks.

Ukrainian air force officials said Sunday morning that air defences shot down all 37 Russian drones launched against the country overnight.

In Russia, Russian air defenses shot down 57 Ukrainian drones over the southern Krasnodar region overnight, the Russian Defense Ministry said. Local military officials said drone debris hit an oil refinery in the town of Slavyansk-on-Kuban, but there was no fire or damage. News outlet *Astra* published videos appearing to show an explosion at the refinery as it was hit by a drone. A further three drones were shot down over the Belgorod region. *AP*

Chopper carrying Iran's president crashes in mountainous region

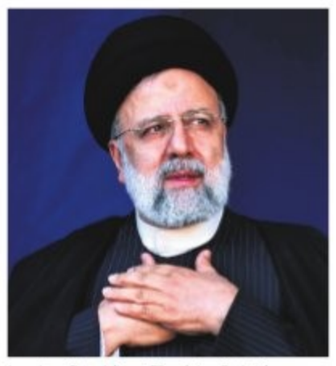
No info available about Raisi; rescuers finding it difficult to reach accident site due to fog

TEHRAN

A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the country's foreign minister and other officials apparently crashed in the mountainous northwest reaches of Iran on Sunday, sparking a massive rescue operation in a fog-shrouded forest as the public was urged to pray.

Raisi was traveling in Iran's East Azerbaijan province. State TV said what it called a "hard landing" happened near Jolfa, a city on the border with the nation of Azerbaijan, some 600 km northwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran. Later, state TV put it farther east near the village of Uzi, but details remained contradictory.

Traveling with Raisi were Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the governor of Iran's East Azerbaijan province and other officials and bodyguards, the state-run *IRNA* news agency reported. One local government official used the word "crash," but others referred to either a "hard landing" or an "incident."



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi | AP

Neither *IRNA* nor state TV offered any information on Raisi's condition in the hours afterward. However, hard-liners urged the public to pray for him. State TV later aired images of the faithful praying at Imam Reza Shrine in the city of Mashhad, one of Shiite Islam's holiest sites, as well as in Qom and other locations across the country.

State television's main channel aired the prayers nonstop.

"The esteemed president and company were on their way back aboard some helicopters and one of the helicopters was forced to make a hard landing due to the bad weather and fog," Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said in comments aired on state TV.

"Various rescue teams are on their way to the region but because of the poor weather and fogginess it might take time for them to reach the helicopter."

IRNA called the area a "forest" and the region is known to be mountainous as well. A rescue helicopter couldn't land due to heavy mist, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, who held an emergency meeting with National Security Council, addressed the nation and asked Iranians not to worry as there would be no disruption of work.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Deeply concerned by reports regarding President Raisi's helicopter flight today. We stand in solidarity with the Iranian people in this hour of distress and pray for the well-being of the President and his entourage,"said PM Modi.

According to Iranian media, if the President isn't found alive, Vice-President Mohammad Mokhberr will take his place and will be appointed as the interim President. Elections would be held within 50 days. *AFP/Yeshi Seli*

Trade ties with India suspended due to 'heavy duties', says Pak FM Dar

ISLAMABAD

FOREIGN Minister Ishaq Dar has said that trade ties between Islamabad and New Delhi have remained suspended since 2019 due to the imposition of "heavy duties" by India on imports from Pakistan after the Pulwama attack.

In a written reply submitted to the National Assembly on Saturday, Dar, who also holds the deputy prime minister's slot, said: "India decided to impose 200% duty on imports from Pakistan, suspended the Kashmir bus service and trade across the Line of Control after the Pulwama attack."

According to the *Dawn* newspaper, Dar was responding to a question by Pakistan Peoples Party lawmaker Sharmila Faruqui seeking details about trade challenges faced by Pakistan in its relations with neighbouring countries, especially India. In March, during a press conference in London, Dar highlighted the eagerness of Pakistan's business community to resume trade activities with India. However, his office later clarified that Pakistan has no plan to resume trade relations with India which has been "non-existent" since 2019.

Pakistan downgraded its ties with India after the Indian Parliament suspended Article 370 on August 5, 2019, a decision that Islamabad believed undermined the environment for holding talks between the neighbours. "We have consistently advocated constructive engagement and result-oriented dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir with India...," Dar said on Saturday. The foreign minister said that the "onus is now on Delhi to take steps for the creation of an environment that is conducive to peace and dialogue". India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Two Chinese warships dock in Cambodia

Two Chinese warships docked on Sunday at a commercial port in Cambodia, in preparation for joint naval exercises between the two countries. The Jingangshan amphibious warfare ship and Qijiguang training ship sailed in to the Sihanoukville Port as onlookers waved Cambodian and Chinese flags from the piers. *AP*

Sri Lanka questions timing of UN report

Sri Lanka questioned the timing and the mandate of a report issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights this week in which it asked the country's government to ensure accountability for enforced disappearances during the armed conflict with the LTTE. *PTI*

Israeli leader Benny Gantz threatens to leave cabinet

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA

AN Israeli airstrike killed 27 people in central Gaza, mostly women and children, and fighting with Hamas raged across the north on Sunday as Israel's leaders aired divisions over who should govern Gaza after the war, now in its eighth month. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces criticism from the two other members of his War Cabinet, with his main political rival, Benny Gantz, threatening to leave the government if a plan is not created by June 8 that includes an international administration for postwar Gaza.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan was meeting with Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders on Sunday to discuss an ambitious US plan for Saudi Arabia to recognise Israel and help the Palestinian Authority govern Gaza in exchange for a path to eventual statehood. Netanyahu opposes Palestinian statehood and has rejected those proposals, saying Israel will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza and partner with local Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas or the Western-backed Palestinian Authority.

Palestinians search for survivors after an Israeli airstrike on a residential building in Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip, on Sunday | AP

Gantz's ultimatum expressed support for normalizing ties with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, but he also said, "We will not allow any outside power, friendly or hostile, to impose a Palestinian state on us."

Gantz's withdrawal would not bring down Netanyahu's coalition government but would leave him more reliant on far-right allies who support the "voluntary emigration" of Palestinians from Gaza, full military occupation and the rebuilding of Jewish settlements there. Even as discussions about the future take on new weight, the war rages.

In recent weeks, Hamas militants have regrouped in parts of northern Gaza that were heavily bombed in the war's early days and where Israeli ground troops operated. *AP*

Biden tells students he hears them on war

President Joe Biden on Sunday told Morehouse College graduates during his speech that he heard their voices of protest over the Israel-Hamas war, and that scenes from the conflict in Gaza have been heartbreaking. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

MUSK STARLINK INTERNET

Elon Musk travelled to a resort island of Bali on Sunday to start Starlink satellite internet service in the world's largest archipelago nation. During the ceremony, Musk took a speed test of the Starlink internet service with several health workers in Indonesia's remote regions, including in Aru, one of Indonesia's unserved and outermost islands in Maluku province. "This can make it really a lifesaver for remote medical clinics, and I think it could be a possibility for education as well," Musk told reporters. Details about the agreement between the government, SpaceX were not given. *AP*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -1 BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

SALE PROCLAMATION FORM NO. 22

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 38 AND 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993

RC No.7942/2014 in OA No.984/2013

State Bank of India and MR. R. BALAKRISHNA & Others

To: Sri Balakrishna R, Major, S/o. Sri Ramakrishna B., R/at Flat No G-3, G Floor of Apartment "Varshitha Heights", Horamavu Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. ...Defendants

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site **http://drt.auctiontiger.net** on **21.06.2024** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.1,86,59,818/-** (Rupees one crore eighty-six lakhs fifty-nine thousand eight hundred and eighteen only)Includes costs and interest thereon as on 30.09.2023 along with future interest till realization of debt as per recovery certificate **RC No. 7166/2013 in OA No. 164/2011.**

Date and Time of Auction	**21.06.2024 Between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**
Reserve Price	**Rs.47,50,000/-** (Rs Forty Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.4,75,000/-** (Rs Four Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)
Date and Time of EMD and Tender Submission	**19.06.2024 by 03:00pm**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : SCHEDULE A PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Site bearing No.09, V.P. Khatha Bearing No.31 1 and Site bearing 10, V.P. Khatha bearing No.312, Covered out of converted land bearing number 129/2, conversion order of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore vides No. B Dis. ALN:SR:E:315/2002-03 dated 01-04-2003) measuring East to West 91 feet and North to South 78 feet, totally in all measuring 7098 square feet, situated at Horamavu village, K.R. Puram Hobli Bangalore East Taluk. Bounded as follows: East by; Site no.8, West by; Private property. North by; Road, South by; property belongs to Sri Ramanjinappa

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY: 243 square feet of undivided share, right, interest in the A schedule property.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY: Two bed Room Apartment Flat Bearing No. G-3 in the Ground floor of the apartment building known as "VARSHITHA HEIGHTS" constructed on the A schedule property with super built up area of 1030 square feet with common areas passages, lobbies, staircases and other common use with one car parking Space.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: http://drt.auctiontiger.net, M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (abcProcure), Ahmedabad is the Service Provider to arrange e-auction platform. [Contact No.079-40016816/35/79/83/91] Email ID: support@auctiontiger.net].

For further details contact: Chief Manager, Mr. Raviprakash Harakere Vishwanath Shastry, Contact No. : 9535327281, State Bank of India, SAR Branch, JC Road, Bengaluru 560 002 for ascertaining the details of immovable properties and also for inspection of immovable properties,

E-mail: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

Sd/-
Recovery Officer-2,
DRT -1, Bengaluru

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 17.05.2024

Indian Overseas Bank
Jayanagar 5th Block Branch, 251/62,9th Main, V Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.
Ph.No.080-22950346/347, Email: iob0346@iob.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical (whichever is applicable) possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 24.06.2024** for recovery of **Rs.33,37,161/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred And Sixty One only)** with further Interest and cost thereon from 31.03.2024 due to **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor from the borrower(s) **1) Mr. Darshan L.D (Borrower & Mortgagor), S/o, Mr. Dodda Malle Gowda L.N,** # 36/2 TFO3, Sri Nanjudeshwara Residency, 17th Main, Muneshwar Block, Bangalore-560026. **2) Mrs. Rashmi N.C (Borrower & Mortgagor), W/o, Mr. Darshan L.D**, # 36/2 TFO3, Sri Nanjudeshwara Residency, 17th Main, Muneshwar Block, Bangalore-560026.

The reserve price will be Rs.44,19,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs.4,41,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty One Thousand Only)

Description of the Immovable property:-

Schedule 'A' Property:	
Nature of Security	**Particulars of Securities**
Mortgage	**Detailed as under:**
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Khata No: 134/471/33/1 measuring 73,758 Sq.ft in Survey No.33/1, Converted Sy.No.33/1 (converted as per Official Memorandum [Conversion Order] No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(S) 553/2004-05, dated 02.04.2005 issued by the special Dy. Commissioner, Bangalore), situated at Gollahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, **bounded as follows: West by:** 60 ft. BDA Road, **North by:** BDA Property, **East by:** BDA Property, **South by:** 40 ft. Road	

Schedule 'B' Property:
All that Piece and Parcel of residential Flat bearing No. 109, 1st floor of Jasmine Block, in a residential apartment known as **"EDEN BLOSSOMS"** CONSISTING OF 2 Bed Rooms, a Kitchen, Dining and Living Room with a total super built-up area of 1155 Sq. ft with one car parking space in the Cellar Floor and 450.45 Sq.Ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property.
This property is in name of Mr. Darshan L D and Rashmi N C.
Reserve Price: Rs.44,19,000/- (Rs. Forty Four Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs.4,41,000/- (Rs. Four Lakhs Forty One Thousand Only)
* Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues
Date and time of e-auction: 24.06.2024 (date) between 11.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M. (time) with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ ibapi.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link or bank's website i.e. **www.iob.in, https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi**
Place: Jayanagar, Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Date: 17.05.2024 **Indian Overseas Bank**

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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY
(PORT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

Short e-Tender notice

Tender No. JNPA/PPD/Land/T-07/2024 dated 16.05.2024

On-line Tenders in single stage two cover system (Technical & Price Bids) and e-auction methodology are invited by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Navi Mumbai from 21.05.2024 to 18.06.2024 from experienced and reputed firms fulfilling Minimum Qualifying Criteria (MQC) for **"ALLOTMENT OF VACANT LAND PARCELS ON LONG TERM LEASE BASIS OF 30 YEARS AT JNPA"**. Tender fee is 23,600/- (non- refundable). Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and the tender document is available on JNPA website "www.jnport.gov.in or https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Chief General Manager
Port Planning & Development Department

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail ID:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.13,37,025/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand and Twenty Five only)** as on **15-05-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **16-05-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mrs. M.S. Vijaya (Also Legal Heir of Late T. Chandrashekar), W/o. Late T. Chandrashekar, No.827, 17th Main, 14th Cross, MET Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore-560073. No.2) Mr. C. Praveen Kumar (Also Legal Heir of Late T. Chandrashekar), S/o. Late T. Chandrashekar, No.827, 17th Main, 14th Cross, MET Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore - 560073. No.3) Mr. C. Karthik (Also Legal Heir of Late T.Chandrashekar), S/o. Late T. Chandrashekar, No.827, 17th Main, 14th Cross, MET Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore - 560073. No.4) Ms. Deepa (Legal Heir of Late T. Chandrashekar), D/o. Late T. Chandrashekar, No.827, 17th Main, 14th Cross, MET Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore - 560073.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Late Chandrashekar (Now represented by Mrs. M.S. Vijaya, Mr. C. Praveen Kumar, Mr. C. Karthik & Ms. Deepa as his Legal Heirs)

Land and RCC Residential Building situated at Door No., Site No.827 formed by the Mysore Electrical Industries, Employees Housing Co-Operative Society Limited, Measuring : East to West : 30 Feet and North to South 39 + 45/2 Feet, in all 1,260 Sq.ft. Location : Situated at Bagalagunte Village, Yashwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Boundaries : East by : R.F.D. Land, West by : Site No.828, North by : Road, South by : SWD.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,00,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
28-06-2024	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Peenya Branch,** Door No.252, Sureka Complex, 100 Feet Road (Near Jalahalli Cross), Peenya, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural - 560057. Telephone No.080-28393225, Cell No.9343239877.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bangaluru Peenya Branch, Door No.252, Sureka Complex, 100 Feet Road (Near Jalahalli Cross), Peenya, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural - 560057. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-28393225, Cell No.9343239877. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 18-05-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

₹1.3 LCR have been injected by Mutual funds (MFs) in Indian equities this year.

Why gold will continue to shine despite hitting record highs

Prices of the precious metal have soared three times in past 9 years, and bullion experts expect the prices to hit ₹2 lakh/10 grams in the next 7 to 12 years

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

GOLD has been and still is the ever-shining and the most trusted metal that women love to own and adorn from time immemorial. And the lure for the yellow metal continues its northward-ho despite prices creating new peaks every other day—having scaled past to a record $2,434 an ounce late April and closing at $2,419.80 this Saturday, up over $34 an ounce on a single day. That means the metal has rallied over 40% from the October 2022 trough forced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the February of that year.

In fact, gold has long been the most preferred choice for parking wealth in our country, long before stocks, mutual funds and other financial instruments became more popular investment options as this is the most liquid safe haven asset, apart from providing a hedge against inflation or any kind of financial uncertainties. Over the years, the country has also moved away from physically owning gold in the form of jewellery and coins or bars into dematerialised forms such as sovereign gold bonds, digital gold, and gold exchange traded funds now, all at a time when the prices have been heading north.

What's driving this demand

It can be noted that gold prices have risen sharply— in the past 2 months alone, gold gained from ₹60,373/10 grams or ₹6037/g on April 19, 2023 to ₹ 75,550/10 grams or ₹7,555/g on May 19, 2024. And the gains of this most popular household asset, is three times in the past nine years alone. Can this do an encore sometime this year or next? The industry is not saying this is impossible as they say the metal can triple again and cross the ₹2-lakh mark over the next few years.

According to the data from the India Bullion & Jewellers Association, it took a little more than nine years for gold to nearly triple and reach the current level--the price was ₹ 24,740/10 grams in 2015. Prior to this, the price tripled in more than nine years, from ₹8,250 in 2006. But before 2006, it took almost 19 years for gold to triple from ₹2,570/10 g in 1987. Before this cycle, the tripling time was nearly eight years and six years. And a tripling from the current level can take the glitter go beyond the ₹2 lakh/10 gram or ₹20,000/g! Historical data show that major global events such as geopolitical tensions and economic crises, can significantly influence gold prices. And given the repeat cycle of global financial crises in the past two decades—five-seven years between two meltdowns--or the recurring border tension between given the number of megalomaniac leaders the world has aplenty or the West Asians' proclivity to flare up every now and then, there is no gainsaying this possibility at all.

GOLD SHINES BRIGHTLY
Gold has long been the most preferred choice for parking wealth in India
During March quarter, the country saw a 20% surge in gold demand in value, totalling ₹75,470 crore on an annualised basis
As of February 2024, the US had the highest gold holding as the reserves with 8,133.46 tonnes; Germany (3,352.65 t/70.6) and Italy (2,451.84/67.6)
OF THE 822.1 tonne of gold that the RBI owns, 408 tonnes are held within the country
Gold jewellery demand stood at 95 tonne, up 4%
GOLD PRICES HAVE RISEN SHARPLY– IN THE PAST 2 MONTHS ALONE, GOLD GAINED FROM ₹60,373/10 GRAMS ON APRIL 19, 2023 TO ₹75,550/10 GRAMS ON MAY 19, 2024

In the past four years alone, according to the India Bullion & Jewellers Association data, gold has shown how the falling rupee along with geopolitical tension and the Covid pandemic boosted the prices-- a spurt from ₹40,000 to ₹75,550, which is full 80% gain!

Citing the past decadal trend, Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities sees the metal hitting the ₹20,000/g or ₹2 lakh/10 grams mark within the next seven to 12 years. Other analysts peg their price rally hopes on the rising changes of geopolitical tension escalating between Iran and Israel and between China and Taiwan. Gold prices are known to rise more when there is a major conflict in any corner of the world or when there is some uncertainty.

But the biggest gold-bulls out there are none other than the leading central banks of the world. According to many global brokerage reports, which see the metal trading at $2700/ounce by December 2024, at least 30% of the price rise this year is attributed to them snapping up the metal, even though gold reserves are no longer the gold standard for central banks.

And as of February 2024, the US had the highest gold holding as the reserves with 8,133.46 tonnes which is 71.3% of the Federal Reserves' currency chest, Germany (3,352.65 t/70.6), Italy (2,451.84/67.6), China (2,262.5/4.6), and India (822.1/8.9 of which 19 tonne were added in the first quarter of 2024 alone).

Despite prices hitting the rooftop almost every week, according to the World Gold Council, domestic gold demand rose 8% in the first quarter of 2024 to 136.6 tonne. This was supported by a robust economic backdrop and was led by the RBI which bought 19 tonne in Q1 alone as against 16 tonne purchase in the whole of 2023, according to the WGC.

Gold acts as a safeguard and hedge against inflation, which helps boost confidence in a nation's economy or in confidence of an individual to meet personal emergencies given its instant liquidity. Because gold has long been viewed as one of the best stores of value, though no longer used as a means to back national currencies.

During the March quarter, the country saw a 20% in gold demand in value, totalling ₹ 75,470 crore on an annualised basis. The total domestic gold demand, including both jewellery and investment, rose to 136.6 tonne in Q1, up from 126.3 tonne a year ago. Gold jewellery demand stood at 95 tonne, up 4% due to high demand from rural areas, say WGC.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW RECOVERY IN RURAL INDIA COULD HELP YOU

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE underperformance of the consumer sector in India tells a story. Over the past five years, the BSE fast-moving consumer goods index has underperformed the BSE Sensex by a margin. Over the years, India's consumer sector has been the pillar of growth. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and little or no wage growth stalled the march.

Much campaigning focused on the rural distress during the run-up to the election. The opposition parties in India have been highlighting it in every political rally. If you are a regular reader of quarterly financial data, you would have noticed that companies in the consumer sector have flagged the rural consumption weakness every quarter. Many companies have announced quarterly results and continue to brief the market on the situation. In the latest quarterly filings, there are signs of a turnaround. Companies are commenting positively on prospects for future sales in rural India.

For example, Asian Paints, the largest paints company, relies on rural recovery and has said that rural markets are responding better than before in the latest quarter. While the urban market is growing strong, the company hopes the recovery in rural India will push up sales in the coming quarters.

TVS Motor, a two-wheeler sales company, hopes to recover better from rural markets in 2024-25. Hero Motocorp, a larger rival of TVS Motor, told analysts there was a jump in first-time buyers across urban and rural Indian markets.

Two-wheeler sales are considered necessary and discretionary spending in rural India. It is believed that when people buy their first two-wheelers, they foresee better prospects ahead. Since the pandemic, the industry has struggled to sell in the rural markets. The cost of making two-wheelers rose due to high input prices. At the same time, rural consumers can't pay the higher price passed on to them. As a result, there was a lull in the segment.

In the consumer sector, companies like Bajaj Consumer said that the optimism in 2024-25 is due to factors like above-normal monsoon expectations, favourable macroeconomic conditions and an explicit green shoot in rural demand. Companies like Marico, which sells Parachute hair oil and other products, focused on building their rural distribution network during the lull period. They are also noticing an uptick in rural growth.

A foreign brokerage, UBS, recently noted in a consumer sector note that normal monsoons, removal of export banks on agricultural commodities, and capital expenditure are likely to boost rural consumption. Government spending on rural infrastructure will likely continue, and jobs outside the agriculture sector will be supported.

What does it mean to you

Global institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD have revised India's growth upwards. The commentary from companies that sell goods and services to rural India indicates signs of a turnaround in the rural economy. In 2024, India's benchmark indices, like the Nifty and the Sensex, have barely moved. Amidst the election season, large institutional investors take the money off the table until we know the nature of the next government. The stock market loathes uncertainty. That leads to rising volatility in the market. As India votes and trends emerge, the year's second half will give a clear picture.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

However, as individuals who are not actively trading or investing, you must take a long-term perspective. The long-term growth prospects for India are good even if there are changes in the government. That helps businesses consistently generate growth and profits. If companies see better prospects for rural India, you should ensure that you are in it to benefit from the growth in rural consumption. There are multiple ways you can participate. You must engage a professional financial advisor to discuss the way forward. Stock market investing is about giving your money the time to grow. As businesses in the consumer sector recover from the depths of the pandemic, there could be a tailwind of growth in rural consumption. You may not want to miss that.

MONEY-WISE

EARLY RETIREMENT: A BOON OR BANE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

IN Social Media, we are told regularly – that there are some things that could significantly improve our lives. Whether it is a particular kind of investment, a diet, a novel mind-set, or the latest money-saving technique, there's no shortage of ideas on how to get ahead.

Many of these theories sound good, but do not appear in real life. Some things are terribly overrated. Early Retirement is sold really hard! What do they have to gain by YOU retiring early?

No boss, no clients, no deadlines, no more business travel – wow! At least for Indian men the whole 'early retirement' sounds almost sinister! In the last 8-10 years of their lives, they did not develop any hobbies, did not know any household work, and suddenly they seem to have lost their sense of purpose! While some people can enter early retirement without skipping a beat, many individuals who decide to retire early from the workforce soon realise that working is about far more than money. The real successful people don't retire –they realise that working is not just about money. It is a social place too – the people with whom you want to eat, party, go on vacations, etc.

Ernie Zelinski talks about the importance of work in How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free:

"Regardless of how talented you are and how successful you are in the workplace, there is some danger that you will not be as happy and satisfied as you hope to be in retirement…What may be missing is a sense of purpose and some meaning to your life."

First question to ask is "why retire" – finding the purpose of life especially during retirement and knowing what will be the time-table for the rest of your life, you should re-think. Playing golf, listening to music, going to the gym –which look like luxuries when you are working are just not enough to be fully engaged.

All of us need good returns for our portfolio –but the retired persons are likely to be paranoid about the sequence of return risk. If you get bad returns in the first few years, your capital could get wiped out –and force you to enter the job market AGAIN! Some of you may be in a position to tap a second career, I would call it a PULL retirement. A push to retirement (saying I don't like my job) is tough to handle, be careful.

One more problem is our unwillingness to accept that we can't predict what will happen in the future. One illness, death, divorce, -any one event can upset the whole thing and we should be careful about it. Sure being in a job is not an insurance against things going wrong. A simple medical cover by an employer may become a huge relief if a liver needs surgical attention!

F.I.R.E – Financial Independence and Early Retirement – I love the fact that FI. comes first. Once you are Financially Independent, decide on what to do. Retirement is just one of the options. I.C.E is also an option – 'I will continue Earning'. Just remember that.

Rajnish, Mohandas Pai to leave Byju's advisory panel

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

BYJU'S parent company Think & Learn Private Limited (TLPL) and the two advisory board members — Rajnish Kumar and Mohandas Pai — have mutually decided not to renew the contractual agreement scheduled to end on June 30, 2024.

This comes at a time when the edtech firm is fighting many legal battles. "Our engagement with the Company as advisors was always on a fixed term basis for a year. Based on our discussions with the founders, it was mutually decided that the tenure of the advisory council should not be extended. Though the formal engagement concludes, the founders and the company can always approach us for any advice. We wish the founders and the company the very best for the future," Kumar and Pai said in a joint statement. "Rajnish Kumar and Mohandas Pai have provided invaluable support in the past year. The ongoing litigations by a few foreign investors have delayed our plans but their advice will be relied upon in the ongoing rebuild which I am personally leading," Byju Raveendran, Founder & CEO, Think & Learn, said.

In July last year, the edtech company appointed both Pai and Kumar in its Advisory Council, which was said to be adivising and mentoring Byju's Board and its CEO on crucial matters.

Recently, Raveendran took over daily operational responsibilities of Byju's after nearly four years. It announced a major reorganisation to streamline its operations and as part of it, the firm is consolidating its businesses into three focused divisions - The Learning App, Online Classes & Tuition Centres, and Test-prep.

ITC's Sanjiv Puri takes over as CII president

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

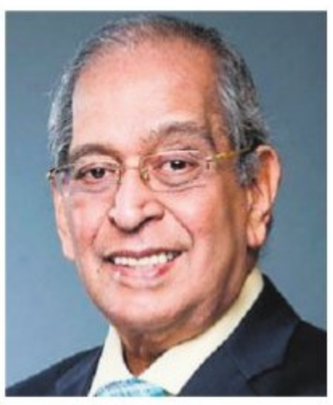
ITC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry for 2024-25, the chamber said on Sunday. Puri heads ITC, a conglomerate with businesses in FMCG, hotels, paperboards & packaging, agribusiness, and IT. He is also the Chairman of ITC Infotech India Ltd, its subsidiaries in the UK and US, and Surya Nepal Private Ltd.

He takes over from R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.

Rajiv Memani takes over as President-Designate of CII for the year 2024-25. He is Chairman of the India region of EY (Ernst & Young), a leading global professional services organisation. He is also a member of EY's global management body as the Chair of its Global Emerging Markets Committee. R Mukundan takes over as Vice President of CII for the year 2024-25.

N Vaghul, the titan of an institution builder

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ MUMBAI



FOR Narayanan Vaghul, the accidental banker and noted philanthropist and institution builder, who redefined private sector banking in this part of the world by building ICICI Bank as the second largest lender in terms of market capitalisation in a short span of time before its newer peer HDFC Bank overtook it a few years back, banking was not his first choice, but civil service.

Vaghul, 88, who passed away on May 18 at Chennai's Apollo Hospital where he was admitted after a fall, has redefined the industry he joined after plans to take the civil service hit a roadblock due to his underage. After joining State Bank of India as a probationary officer in 1957, he not only pioneered the industry but also became the youngest chairman and managing director of the public sector Bank of India, when he was just 44 and also the youngest chairman of the Indian Banks Association.

The credit for so many women bankers in the private sector space should be his, as he championed a gender-neutral meritocracy in banking, and mentored a generation of women bankers. Being a great talent spotter and being a firm believer in a gender-neutral meritocracy, Vaghul has mentored a host of second run women managers in ICICI at a time the money game was a male exclusive. It was Vaghul who headhunted KV Kamath from Asian Development Bank. Not just Kamath, many of the financial sector leaders today--the Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch, Chanda Kochhar, who unfortunately had a humiliating exit from ICICI Bank as its chief executive; Shikha Sharma, who led Axis Bank for nine years, international banker Kalpana Morparia who headed JP Morgan India for over a decade; Multiples Assets founder Renuka Ramnath, and the present chief of ICICI Bank chief Sandeep Bakhshi, and another ICICI banker Nachiket Mor, were all spotted and mentored by Vaghul. He gave up his executive roles after Kamath rejoined the bank in 1996.

All this had the nation honouring him with the third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan, in 2009. Vaghul was born in 1936 in Madras as the second in a family of eight children. He studied at the Ramakrishna Mission School and graduated in commerce from Loyola College, Madras, in 1956. Vaghul married Padma and they have two children--Mohan and Sudha. Apart from building ICICI and ICICI Bank, his institution building legacy includes chairmanship of Crisil and Mahindra World City in Chennai as the first private sector SEZ; the National Institute of Banking Management, Central Bank of India, and Bank of India. He was appointed as the CMD of the ICICI, which was then still a government-controlled public finance institution, in 1985 by the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. He led the corporation's transformation into the largest private-sector bank and retired in 1996, but remained as its non-executive chairman until 2009.

The defining moments in his banking career came in 1985 when he took over the reins of what was then the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), a development finance institution that has gone on to become ICICI Bank in 1995. Being the right man in the right job at the right time, he helmed ICICI through those tumultuous years, merged ICICI with ICICI Bank, foreseeing the sharp rise in interest rates in the 1990s would hit development finance institutions. To him also goes the credit of building the country's first credit rating agency Crisil. Vaghul was on the boards of Wipro, M&M, Apollo Hospitals and Mittal Steel.

Rohit lashes out at IPL broadcasters

Rohit Sharma on Sunday lashed out at the IPL broadcasters for "breaching" cricketers' privacy. "The lives of cricketers have become so intrusive that cameras are now recording every step and conversation we are having in privacy with our friends and colleagues, at training or on match days," Rohit posted on X.

Blue is the warmest colour: Man City secure 4th consecutive PL title

AGENCIES @ Manchester

MANCHESTER CITY, nicknamed The Sky Blues, won an unprecedented fourth consecutive Premier League title on Sunday as Phil Foden's double inspired a 3-1 win over West Ham. No side in the history of the English top flight had ever won four successive titles, but City have become accustomed to rewriting the record books under Pep Guardiola. The Catalan coach has masterminded six Premier League wins in the past seven seasons. In four of those years, City have also surpassed 90 points. They were pushed this season to deny Arsenal a first title since 2003/04.

The Gunners celebrated a 0-0 draw at the Etihad last month that kept them one point in front of City with nine games to play. But the champions were relentless in the run-in, winning their final nine league games, scoring 33 goals. Guardiola conceded City had felt the pressure in a nervy 2-0 win at Spurs.

In the same scenario two years ago, they needed a remarkable late fightback from 2-0 down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 on the final day. There was far less drama as West Ham melted under the baking Manchester sun in David Moyes' final game in charge of the Hammers.

Manchester City players celebrate after sealing the title on Sunday | AP

Premier League standings (Top-3)

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
Man City	38	28	7	3	91
Arsenal	38	28	5	5	89
Liverpool	38	24	10	4	82

Foden was recently crowned the football writers' player of the year for his best-ever goalscoring season and ended any suspense after just 79 seconds. For all of City's recent dominance though, there is a troubling off-the-field issue apropos as many as 115 alleged financial breaches. These alleged breaches are in relation to financial fair play, with the Premier League charging the team in 2023. If found guilty, the team could be fined, or they could be docked points or even relegated. When they were charged, the PL statement read: "In accordance with Premier League Rule W.82.1, the Premier League confirms that it has today referred a number of alleged breaches of the Premier League Rules by Manchester City Football Club to a Commission under Premier League Rule W.3.4." The hearing in the case is scheduled to begin early next season.

Results: Liverpool **2-0** Wolves, Sheffield **0-3** Spurs, Luton **2-4** Fulham, Brighton **0-2** Man United, Man City **3-1** West Ham, Arsenal **2-1** Everton, Brentford **2-4** Newcastle, Crystal Palace **5-0** Aston Villa, Chelsea **2-1** Bournemouth, Burnley **1-2** Nottingham Forest.

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

IS THIS THE END, BEAUTIFUL FRIEND?

After Chennai's elimination on Saturday, the cricketing world might have seen the last of Dhoni, the cricketer

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AS Ravindra Jadeja missed an across-the-line swipe off the final ball of the match on Saturday night in the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the entire Stadium was on its feet. From Church Street to MG Road, celebrations had already begun in the Garden City. Royal Challengers Bengaluru had won six matches on the trot to qualify for the play-offs. In the process, they might have just spoiled (did they?) one of the most anticipated cricketing farewells in the country.

Such was the jubilation of the victory that when MS Dhoni, who might just have played his last ever competitive match, led the CSK entourage onto the field for a handshake, the RCB players were nowhere to be seen. They were all scattered in different corners celebrating in their bubble, cherishing the moment. Dhoni & co. waited briefly before pointing to his captain Ruturaj Gaikwad to lead the team for the handshake. Post that, walking into the dugout. The last visual of Dhoni was him shaking hands with RCB Director of Cricket, Mo Babat, before getting into the dressing room. No one from the outside saw him from then till the end of the post-match press conference. Is that the last the world saw of Dhoni as an active cricketer? As CSK bowling consultant Eric Simmons would later say: "Anybody who wants to speculate about his future, it's going to be crazy. MS knows what he is going to do."

Indeed. And yet, at 42 (he will turn 43 in July) and with a mega auction coming up, this entire IPL season seemed like a farewell. His legacy as the most successful captain yet is etched into the history books. He had anointed a successor in Gaikwad. He grew out his hair like the old days. The only time he came to bat was in the death. On occasions, he would promote himself when the game was all but won just so that the fans would be happy. Which is why, in the lead-up to the contest in Bengaluru, the loyalties were divided. Unlike the previous occasions, Dhoni did have much choice when he came out to bat.

It was the end of the 15th over. Chennai were 129/6, needing 72 runs to qualify from 30 balls (90 to win). They had just lost Mitchell Santner to what was arguably the catch of the tournament from Faf du Plessis. As the South African pulled off a one-handed stunner at mid-off, the entire stadium let out a huge roar. It was a moment of pure cricketing joy. And yet, it seemed momentary as the Chinnaswamy crowd realised what they were about to witness. Perhaps for the last time in their lives, they were going to watch Dhoni walk out to bat. Almost as if they knew what to do, every single fan stood up with the chants of 'Dhoni, Dhoni'. The mobile flashlights came out as Dhoni took strike. There was no cue from the DJ at the ground, nor was there any momentum with the visitors. And yet, it all came together. Once again, the chants of CSK and Dhoni took over through the 16th over with fans waving their flashlights from the stands.

While it has been a trend over the past couple of years, on Saturday, there was a lot at stake. Win and go through. Suffer a relatively heavy defeat and go out. Surely, he would not want that; nor would his partner at the other end — Jadeja. Although Dhoni has not officially said that this would be his last season, it seemed like this could be it. Dhoni hit a four off Cameron Green in the 16th over as CSK collected nine runs. However, that was far from enough. The required run rate had crept up to 20.25. At this point, the usually vocal Chinnaswamy crowd had gone quiet. Every time Dhoni took strike, there would be a collective 'ooooh', a reaction to the shot. That apart, save for boundaries or wickets, the crowd had been relatively mute. With 50 needed from three overs for Chennai to qualify, everyone knew Dhoni could not do it by himself. He hasn't been that main-act finisher for a while now. Jadeja had to be the protagonist as he was in the IPL final last year. And, once again, he was in the middle of it, bringing the equation down to 17 runs in six balls.

Yash Dayal was at the top of the mark. Dhoni was on strike. Left-arm pacer, Dhoni, Chinnaswamy Stadium, it seemed like a match made in heaven. Even more so when the former CSK captain sent Dayal out of the ground. But it was not to be. A newish ball was taken. Ironically that meant Dayal had a better grip to execute the slower ball. He got it right and Dhoni holed out. Jadeja was in the middle of the pitch, letting out a roar in anguish. From thereon, it was a night of glory for Dayal and agony for CSK.

As much as Dhoni had been associated with pragmatism as a cricketer, when it came to the colours of Chennai, the emotions were always visible. Admittedly, he welled up, soaking in all the love after CSK won the title in Ahmedabad last year. Which is why, despite the feeling that it is over, one can never be sure until an Instagram post or a two-line statement (going by history, do not expect any big send-off).

And if it does come this year, it is fittingly poetic that the ride into the sunset was in a typical Dhoni way. Minutes after the match, he quietly walked away into the dressing room never to be seen again.

Sun rises in Hyd under Pat

FIROZ MIRZA @ Hyderabad

SUNRISERS Hyderabad were in dire need of revival after the last edition of the Indian Premier League. They had finished last in the 10-team competition winning only four matches out of 14. They were the wooden spooners (8th) in 2021 and managed to save themselves from the ignominy in the next season only by a whisker finishing eighth among 10 teams. What made it worse was that they had qualified for the play-offs from 2016 to 2020 winning their maiden title in the first attempt.

There were many factors ailing the team but more than anything else they desperately needed a captain who can lead by example. Since David Warner, who holds the distinction for being the most successful captain of the franchise, Hyderabad were struggling to find a leader who can inspire the players to give their best, lift their morale when things are not going their way and in the process take the team to greater heights.

In their quest for a skipper who can bring stability and calmness in the dressing room, the SRH broke the bank in the mini auction to sign Pat Cummins for ₹20.5 crores briefly making him the most expensive player in the IPL history. Coming into the auction as the ODI World Cup winning Australian captain, Cummins found himself at the centre of a fierce bidding war, primarily involving Royal Challengers Bengaluru and SRH. Once they acquired the services of Cummins, SRH avoided changing the core of the team, retaining 18 players from the 2023 team of 25. The next biggest signing for them was Travis Head, who cost them ₹6.80 crores. Overall the franchise spent ₹30.80 crore in the auction. However, acquiring Cummins and designating him as the skipper was also a kind of gamble SRH had played. Despite him being the Australian skipper in Tests and ODIs, he hasn't led a team in the top-flight T20 tournaments before being announced SRH captain. In fact, Cummins had not played a T20I match for almost 15 months before representing Australia in two T20Is against New Zealand in February this year. He had also skipped the previous edition of the IPL to focus on the packed international schedule. Fortunately, the gamble worked as despite starting their campaign with a narrow loss against KKR, Hyderabad transformed into a formidable unit as the tournament progressed. Head and Abhishek Sharma became the most feared openers in the league as they kept sending opposition bowlers on a leather-hunt more often than not. The team set the record for the highest IPL total twice before storming into the play-offs for the first time since 2020. The good show on the field also brought back the fans to the stands as they flocked the venue at Uppal, Hyderabad for every home match of the team. The facility witnessed a capacity crowd in almost every contest with the fans hoping for an encore of the 2016 season. Apart from leading the side with distinction, Cummins turned out to be the star performer for the team with the ball claiming 15 wickets from 13 matches sitting only behind T Natarajan for SRH. While speaking to the journalists during a promotional event a few days ago in the city, Cummins had said that his immediate goal is to guide the team to title-triumph. Asserting that his boys were really playing well, the skipper had said that all of them are keen to finish off the IPL campaign on a high. SRH have already taken a step towards achieving their captain's goal by finishing in the top four and making it to the play-offs.

They won their last league match against visiting Punjab Kings by four wickets on Sunday to further consolidate their position. The need of the hour now is to keep the good form going for the next few days as it can not only help them win their second IPL title but also give Cummins his third major trophy after winning the World Test Championship and ODI World Cup last year. **Brief scores:** PBKS 214/5 in 20 ovs (Prabhsimran 71; Natarajan 2/33) **lost to** SRH 215/6 in 19.1 ovs (Abhishek 66, Klaasen 42; Arshdeep 2/37).

Pat Cummins has been at the centre of SRH's success | SRILOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

Teams	P	W	L	Pts	NRR
KKR	14	9	3	20	1.42
SRH	14	8	5	17	0.41
RR	14	8	5	17	0.27
RCB	14	7	7	14	0.45
CSK	14	7	7	14	0.39
DC	14	7	7	14	-0.37
LSG	14	7	7	14	-0.66
GT	14	5	7	12	-1.06
PBKS	14	5	9	10	-0.35
MI	14	4	10	8	-0.31

RR vs KKR abandoned

GUWAHATI: The Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders contest on Sunday was called off due to rain.

Playoff schedule: Qualifier 1: KKR vs SRH, May 21, Ahmedabad; **Eliminator:** RR vs RCB, May 22, Ahmadabad; **Qualifier 2:** May 24, Chennai; **Final:** May 26, Chennai.

EXPRESS READ

Jiteshwor signs new deal with Chennaiyin FC

CHENNAI: After an impressive show in the recently-concluded season, Chennaiyin FC have handed a contract extension to Yumkhaibam Jiteshwor Singh. The fresh deal will keep him with the club till 2025. The 22-year-old midfielder had played a key role for CFC in the recent season.

Three Indians qualify for Paris Paralympics

NEW DELHI: Ace Indian para shuttlers Sukant Kadam, Tarun and Suhas have secured their berths for the upcoming Paralympics in Paris. This is the first time Kadam will be taking part in the Paralympics, and he will be playing in the men's SL 4 category.

Zverev serves his way to Italian Open title

ROME: Alexander Zverev put on a serving clinic in a 6-4, 7-5 win over 24th-ranked Nicolas Jarry to claim his second Italian Open title Sunday and earn his biggest trophy since tearing his ankle apart two years ago. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek beat No 2 Aryna Sabalenka in the women's final.

To hell & back, shooter Arjun striving for more

INDRANEEL DAS @ Bhopal

SHOOTERS are a rare breed. They have their idiosyncrasies and beliefs. They will go to any extent to train their mind and win medals. Arjun Babuta tried different things when an opportunity arose during the Covid lockdown. He would go sleepless during the night or wake up at odd hours so that he was accustomed to conditions that were extreme, hard and alien.

Arjun has had the toughest of times too. The 25-year-old was tormented by a bulged and displaced disc on his lower back. He used to collapse on the ground while shooting. The toughest phase was when one doctor told him that he would never shoot again. But miracles do happen. Now, he is back stronger. "It was tough but I did not give up," he said after securing a berth in the Indian team for the Olympics in the 10m air rifle event. Sandeep Singh is the other shooter who finished in the top-two in the men's 10m air rifle category in the Olympic Selection Trials (OST).

The process-driven shooter from Punjab has learnt the nuances of the sport through setbacks. "I concentrate on my process; my shooting practice and my match routine," he said.

He used the word process more than 10 times during the conversation.

Arjun believes in smart work rather than hard work. "I recovered from that setback (of injury) through the guidance of my friends and coaches who spread positivity. Thankfully, I am here now," he said.

Arjun then narrated an incident. "My body and spine were weak. I was doing too much hard work and not smart work. I was training for 9-10 hours. It was a back injury and I used to fall while shooting. The lower part of the body used to go numb. When the doctor told me that I would not be shooting anymore, I was shocked. Then I went to another doctor. I thought that the doctor cannot be good at all (laughs). I went to quite a few places like Chennai, Abhinav Bindra's centre and finally at PGI, Chandigarh. They diagnosed it and through a doctor in Patiala, Dr Naresh, I recovered."

There was some issue in the lumbar region. "I learnt that strengthening was also important. There was so much stress that I started taking a diet plan and strictly followed it. I had to take more protein. In 2019 October, I came back to shooting. Now, I am in the squad."

The competition for a place in the Indian team is tough, some even consider this tougher than any international meet. Even Arjun thinks so. "You can take anyone (shooter), anybody can win a medal at the Olympics. Everybody is good and there was pressure during trials also. They have given their best. You can see the scores were good."

"Lockdown was a blessing in disguise," he said. "It was a good time for me when I started following different workouts. Whatever technical gaps were there, I tried to sharpen them. I followed different sleep patterns. Sometimes I used to wake up at 3 AM, sometimes at 4. Sometimes I remain awake the whole night. I tried different things and understood what the body can take and what it cannot. So after lockdown, I was topping all the trials. After that, the Delhi World Cup, where I did very well but because of the policies at that time I could not go to the Olympics in Tokyo. I think that was God's plan.

"I will follow the process. Depending on the time of the events, I change my sleep schedule and diet. There were two options this time so I preferred to wake up early and eat less breakfast. Once there was a final in the evening, I had more breakfast. These are the small things that we keep in mind and we have to be aware of what needs to be done."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

MANU, ELAVENIL AMONG TOPPERS

Manu Bhaker topped the T4 finals (women's 10m air pistol) in the OST, finishing as the most successful athlete in the event that was conducted across two venues — New Delhi and Bhopal. Tokyo Olympian Elavenil Valarivan dominated women's 10m air rifle T4 finals with a tally of 254.3.

Dramatic win for Verstappen

AGENCIES @ Imola

THREE-TIME world champion and series leader Max Verstappen returned to winning ways on Sunday when he resisted a late charge by Lando Norris to take a dramatic victory for Red Bull at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix. After being beaten in Miami, where Norris claimed his maiden victory for McLaren, the Dutchman resisted him to come home 0.725 seconds ahead of the Briton. Charles Leclerc finished third for Ferrari ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, Carlos Sainz in the second Ferrari and Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes teammate George Russell. Sergio Perez was eighth in the second Red Bull.

Badminton: Satwik-Chirag seal Thailand Open title

AGENCIES @ Bangkok

INDIAN pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received a major boost ahead of the Paris Olympics as they secured the men's doubles title at the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China here.

Satwik and Chirag, the World No 3 pair prevailed 21-15, 21-15 over Liu and Chen, ranked 29th, for their ninth BWF world tour title.

It was also the second title of the season for the Asian Games champs following their triumph at the French Open Super 750 in March. They had also finished runners-up at Malaysia Super 1000 and India Super 750. "Bangkok has always been special for us, we won our first Super Series title back in 2019 here and also the Thomas cup, so it has been a special place and so happy to be here," Chirag said.

For Satwik and Chirag, the title comes at a major juncture of their career as they had some low returns in the last couple of tournaments. The Indian pair lost in the second round at All England Open and then missed the Asia Championships due to an injury to Satwik.

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20.05.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Trailblazer

On this day in 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman and second person after Charles Lindberghto to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

THE JOURNEY

During her 3,260 km non-stop flight across the Atlantic, Amelia fought fatigue, a leaky fuel tank, and a cracked manifold that spewed flames out the side of the engine

SETTING RECORDS

Amelia began setting records before she officially earned her pilots license when she set the feminine altitude record of 4,267 meters in 1922

FINAL TRIP

Fred Noonan and Amelia anchored off shore Howland and they were declared lost at sea on July 19, 1937, following a massive sea and air search

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

CE's lensman **Shashidhar Byrappa** captures glimpses of the celebrations during an electrifying match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings on Saturday, the hangover of which spilt into Sunday

Chris Gayle, Danish Sait and Rishab Shetty

Sakshi and Ziva Dhoni

Anushka Sharma | PTI

RED WAVE

BENGALURU is still riding high from an unforgettable show at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, where the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) clinched a playoff spot in a nail-biting match against the defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK). The electrifying atmosphere was further charged by celebrities like Bengaluru girl Anushka Sharma, Rishab Shetty, and Chris Gayle in the stands, alongside home-grown talent like Abishek Ambareesh and Danish Sait. It was a do-or-die clash, especially for RCB which stood only a one per cent chance to qualify. CSK fans, confident of another win, were in for a shock, especially as it could mark the end of an era with MS 'Mahi' Dhoni possibly playing his final game. Initially disheartened by a rocky start to the season, RCB has been on a winning spree in the last six matches, which we hope will continue to the finals. Fingers crossed!

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher for a one-month subscription worth ₹3,000 from Suay- Asian Cafe**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Pithivier; 2) Haggis; 3) Calzone

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Jayavanth TV
2. Srinivasan SK
3. Ulhas Premkumar

SESHADRIPURAM INSTITUTIONS

Bengaluru | Mysuru | Mandya | Tumakuru

***Heartily Congratulate** its **82 STATE TOPPERS** in II PUC Annual Examination, March 2024*

Seshadripuram Independent PU College, Seshadripuram.

COMMERCE

Bhavana H. 7th Place

Sparsha Amin 12th Place

Harshini Singh R. 13th Place

Bhavyashree B. 17th Place

Ashwin K. 17th Place

Shreya S. 18th Place

Shravika B.M. 18th Place

Pooja C. 18th Place

Abishek D.V. 19th Place

Sheethal S. 19th Place

Tanisha S. 19th Place

SCIENCE

Anshuman V. R 15th Place

Ashwin V. R. 20th Place

Seshadripuram Composite PU College, Yelahanka New Town.

COMMERCE

Vibha Dixit. 3rd Place

Hima Bindu N. 6th Place

Gurukiran B.R. 10th Place

Sarala R. 11th Place

P. Rashmi 12th Place

Kusuma N. 13th Place

Sreedhar N. 14th Place

Kavana V.R. 16th Place

Mythri A. N. 17th Place

Jyeshta P.J.. 17th Place

Chandana R. 19th Place

SCIENCE

Darshan N.P. 14th Place

Vedanth U. 16th Place

Mokshitha V. 17th Place

Harshith N.S. 19th Place

Vishweshwaran K. 20th Place

Seshadripuram Independent PU College, Kengeri Satellite Town.

COMMERCE

Anusha G.S 9th Place

Abhishek M.P. 9th Place

Shreya P. 13th Place

Keerthana S. 16th Place

Umesh H. 16th Place

Shreeya S.K. 17th Place

Harshitha P.S. 20th Place

SCIENCE

Pavan Kumar M. 13th Place

Shreyachandra. 15th Place

Sridevi Jeevanagi 16th Place

Diksheetha M. 17th Place

N. R. Pandith Aradhya
President

Seshadripuram Composite PU College
Seshadripuram.

Preetham R. P.
1st Place in State
(SCIENCE)

COMMERCE

Shreya C.B. 3rd Place

Akshatha S.M. 3rd Place

Yathish Kumar C.K. 3rd Place

Chuneha R.S. 7th Place

Navaneetha G. 8th Place

Divya P. 9th Place

Lahari S. 10th Place

Manjunathaswamy N. 11th Place

Niveditha K.B. 11th Place

Samhita M. 12th Place

Nanda Kumar A. 13th Place

Pragathi K. E. 13th Place

Anirudh K. V. 14th Place

Namitha S. 14th Place

Ashlesh Hegde 16th Place

Monika D. 16th Place

Karthik R. 17th Place

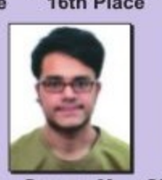
Varssha G. 17th Place

Santhosh R. 18th Place

Kavana D. 18th Place

Sujan H. 18th Place

Ashwitha M. 18th Place


Gourav M. 18th Place

Charan Devang R. 19th Place

SCIENCE

Deepashree A. 12th Place

Sai Sushanth N. 20th Place

Pallavi Y. K. 19th Place

Bhuvan Bhat 19th Place

Kruthika R. 20th Place

Vasavi K. Kulkarni 20th Place

Seshadripuram PU College, Tumakuru.

COMMERCE

Gowthami 13th Place

Jayashree D.H. 15th Place

Manisha B. 18th Place

SCIENCE

Raksha S.J. 16th Place

Umesh R.M. 18th Place

Karthik M. 19th Place

Nadoja Dr. Wooday P. Krishna
Honorary General Secretary

Seshadripuram Independent PU College, Mysuru.

COMMERCE

Anish N. B. 9th Place

Rakshitha B.S. 13th Place

SCIENCE

Bhavanth R. 19th Place

Bhumika K.C. 19th Place

Chandana Shree N. 19th Place

game plan

SETTING THE 'FOUNDATION' RIGHT

The very first obstacle on your way to becoming a Chartered Accountant is the Foundation exam. Harsha Tallapragada picks the brains of noted experts from the field and lays out strategies and challenges candidates should know about

TIME, dedication, desire, interest, and the right mindset! The initial level of Chartered Accountancy (CA) is the Foundation exam. Experts share insights on how candidates can decide if CA is the right path for them and share preparation tactics for acing the Foundation exam.

"Students from Commerce and Science streams with a strong zeal and commitment to rigorous academics can pursue Chartered Accountancy (CA). Regardless of their educational background, those passionate about accounting, finance, and analytical thinking can excel as CAs," said Dr Avinash Brahmadevara, Chairman of Avinash Group of Institutions.

KL Deemed-to-be University's Head of Commerce Department, Dr S Santha Kumari, opined, "Among the various options available after Classes X and XII, CA stands out as a top choice due to its prestigious status, despite how challenging it is. Therefore, candidates should thoroughly understand the facets of the CA exams, course, and syllabus and gauge their own interest in pursuing it."

Both experts agree that the CA profession welcomes candidates with a thirst for knowledge, genuine enthusiasm for coursework and readiness to invest the required time and effort into the curriculum.

Begin with Accounting as it forms the core necessary for success in other subjects. Next, focus on Business Laws

Dr Avinash Brahmadevara
Chairman,
Avinash Group of Institutions

How to prep?

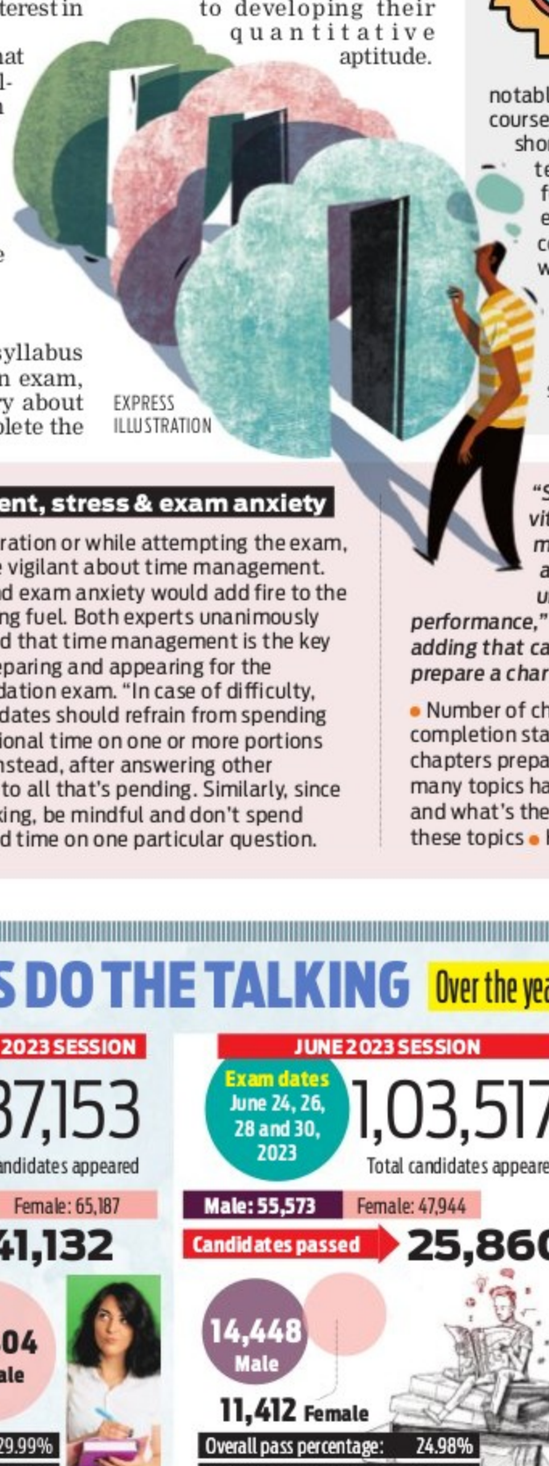
Given the extensive syllabus for the CA Foundation exam, candidates often worry about not being able to complete the syllabus on time or missing out on covering chapters. Both experts advise candidates to prioritise understanding the syllabus, subjects, topics included and the subject weightage.

Kumari insists on creating a preparation timetable. "Candidates should give equal preference to all papers as it is crucial to achieve minimum passing marks in every paper. Therefore, they should start the preparation as early as possible."

Advocating a systematic approach, Avinash suggests, "Allocate study time based on the importance and complexity of topics. Break down the syllabus into smaller, manageable segments and assign specific study sessions for each." Further, he stresses that flexibility is key and points out that candidates need to prioritise topics as per their proficiency.

According to both experts, candidates must include effective study practices including summarising, taking notes, and writing down important points to overcome the issue of completing the curriculum on time.

Avinash added that Class XII non-Mathematics students should prioritise devoting time to developing their quantitative aptitude.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Which subject first

According to Kumari, "A few Class X students score 100/100 in Mathematics, while others might dread the subject. Thus, the topic to begin preparations depends on their interest level. A few might find accounting problems easy but struggle with theory papers. I suggest that students begin with Mathematics, followed by business law and business economics." Avinash suggests that candidates set aside a consistent amount of time each day for theory-based papers such as law and auditing.

Impact of new curriculum

Avinash says changes in the curriculum will have both positive and challenging impacts on the Foundation exam candidates. "Positively, it may reflect updated industry standards, ensuring that candidates are equipped with relevant knowledge. Also, it indicates a high level of expectation from students, as Inter level topics are now included at the Foundation level," he said. "Success in the Foundation exam boosts the chance of clearing subsequent levels. Hence, students must adapt to syllabus updates," he added.

Challenges to be aware of

Recent updates to the curriculum offer a glimmer of hope for candidates, according to Avinash. "The implementation of three exam attempts annually for CA Foundation and CA Inter levels, coupled with a reduction in subjects at the CA Inter and CA Final levels, has notably streamlined the course. In addition, the shortened articleship tenure by one year further contributes to easing the time constraints associated with the CA journey."

Kumari emphasises the role of self-motivation. She stresses on defeating self-doubt.

Time management, stress & exam anxiety

Whether during preparation or while attempting the exam, candidates need to be vigilant about time management. Additionally, stress and exam anxiety would add fire to the existing fuel. Both experts unanimously agreed that time management is the key to preparing and appearing for the Foundation exam. "In case of difficulty, candidates should refrain from spending additional time on one or more portions and instead, after answering other questions, come back to all that's pending. Similarly, since there is negative marking, be mindful and don't spend more than the required time on one particular question.

"Self-assessment is vital in time management as it assists you in understanding your performance," Kumari stresses, adding that candidates should prepare a chart to evaluate:

- Number of chapters and their completion status
- For how many chapters preparation is done
- How many topics have been practised and what's the performance like in these topics
- How many more to go

PEARLS OF WISDOM

IN a question-and-answer interview with EdexLive, CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India spoke about the new curriculum, exams preparation, new advancements and incorporations to the CA exams and a lot more...

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE CURRICULUM?

- Four self-paced online modules have been introduced, aligned with technology-enabled learning.
- Many new subjects have been introduced under self-paced online modules like papers on Risk Management, Sustainability Reporting, Forex and Treasury Management and Digital Ecosystem and Controls, which have prominence worldwide.
- The new CA curriculum provides competencies through enriched learning methodologies, holistic skill assessment, practical training, industry orientation and a multi-disciplinary approach which integrates new-age technologies.
- Practical training includes a two-year examination-free period and assessments through case scenarios and, study-based multiple-choice questions (MCQ) at all levels.

WHY HAVE EXAMS THRICE A YEAR?

- There is no fixed timeline for exams when it comes to bodies like Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Australia, CPA Canada and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).
- Due to the increase in the frequency of CA Intermediate and Foundation course exams, students will have more opportunities to appear in the exam as they can appear in the exam after a gap of four months instead of the present gap of six months.

Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President, ICAI

BACK TO THE ROOTS

ICAI's establishment dates back to 1949 when it was set up for the regulation and development of the CA profession in India. It functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India

ICAI Timeline

July 1, 1949: ICAI was set up by Act of Parliament viz The Chartered Accountants Act

July 1, 1949: First CA Day celebrated to commemorate the establishment of ICAI

August 15-16, 1949: First meeting of the council

June 14, 2016: Awarded Associate membership by the Chartered Accountants Worldwide

February 2024: Became the world's largest professional accountancy body with over 1.25 million CAs

So, what do CA Foundation exam papers look like?

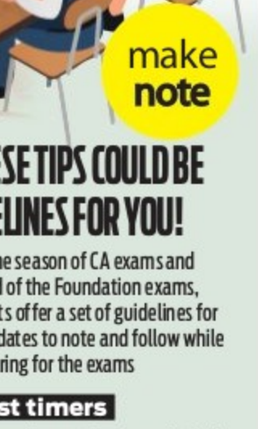
Paper-1: Accounting | **Paper pattern:** Subjective
- **Three hours** | 100 marks | Pass percentage: Min 40%

Paper-2: Business Laws | **Paper pattern:** Subjective
- **Three hours** | 100 marks | Pass percentage: Min 40%

Paper-3: Quantitative Aptitude | **Paper pattern:** Objective
- **Two hours** | 100 marks | Pass percentage: Min 40%

Paper-4: Business Economics | **Paper pattern:** Objective
- **Two hours** | 100 marks | Pass percentage: Min 40%

Eligibility: *Candidates may register for the Foundation Course after passing Class X or XII exam conducted by an examining body constituted by law in India or an examination recognised by the Central Government or the state government as equivalent thereto.*



THREE 'Ls' TO THE RESCUE

DO NOTE: It is important for a candidate to regularly visit the official website and keep an eye on course-related amendments or content. Exam announcements, fee details, registration deadlines and other information are conveyed by the ICAI via the website.

LLs to keep up
- learn
- un learn
- re learn

According to the ICAI President, there is a probability of candidates missing out on the latest updates shared by ICAI or the changes being implemented. Thus, the president suggests following 3Ls — learn, unlearn and relearn to omit the risk of being outdated. This further facilitates adaptability to the newest amendments and notifications. Also, the president says that the journey to becoming a CA requires full dedication, strategic planning, and continuous learning. "For aspiring CA students, mastering the art of effective exam preparation is crucial in navigating this challenging path with confidence and excellence. Therefore, Regular study, Review and Revision are the three 'Rs' for success," he adds.

Mainly, CA exams are given by two categories of candidates — first-timers and repeaters. Though self-explanatory, here's what the terms mean. First-timers are candidates appearing for the exam for the first time, while the repeaters are appearing for another attempt. They share their story and inspiration behind pursuing CA

REPEATER

PREM KUMAR
2023 Intermediate pass out
Student, Anish College of Commerce

MANY consider the CA journey to be challenging, and it was this perception that drew me towards pursuing it. I believe studying to become a CA is like studying for a degree, however, the difference you can get backlogs in degree exams, not in CA exams. Encouraged by a supportive mentor, I felt compelled to embark on this path.

Thorough revision, typically spanning three to four cycles, is crucial. Business Law is the toughest for me because subjects like Mathematics, Economics, and Accounts seem to be a little easier while Law seems complicated due to the various sections. The complexity arises from the need to memorise various sections. Since Business Law was difficult for me, I started with practising all the sections to improve my chances in my second exam attempt.

However, for CA exams, time management plays a significant role. During my first attempt, even though the paper was neither tough nor easy, due to nervousness, I wasted nearly 30 minutes. This experience taught me the lesson that effective time management is key.

1st TIMER

K SATYA SAI KARTIKEYA
2024 Intermediate pass out
Student, Gatik Junior College

INITIALLY, CA as a course interested me. Additionally, many used to say that clearing CA exams is tough. I wanted to prove my calibre by clearing CA exams on my first attempt.

I believe CA exams are not tough; the person pursuing it perceives it as tough. CA is like a game which has its own set of rules. One has to follow these rules to clear it. However, coaching centres and students make it hard with their rules to qualify for CA.

After my visit to several coaching institutes, I was dejected over their approach as it was more about ranks for them. Everything settled when I visited Champs CA Academy.

My preparation plan is straightforward. I follow pen and paper method, ensuring that every concept is practised actively on paper rather than merely passively reading the material. Consistent daily preparation is key, as I am a firm believer that success is not achieved through one-off efforts but rather through sustained dedication over time. Emphasising the importance of trusting the process over fixating solely on outcomes, maintaining confidence throughout the journey is crucial.

make note

THESE TIPS COULD BE LIFELINES FOR YOU!

It is the season of CA exams and ahead of the Foundation exams, experts offer a set of guidelines for candidates to note and follow while preparing for the exams

First timers

1. Develop a structured study schedule
2. Prioritise foundation subjects (Accounting and Business Laws)
3. Break down the syllabus into manageable study sessions
4. Allocate specific time slots for each topic
5. Give mock tests regularly
6. Refer to supplementary resources (textbooks, online courses, coaching material)
7. Prioritise self-care to manage exam stress
8. Collaborate with peers/seniors/study groups

Repeaters

1. Identify pitfalls from previous attempts
2. Allocate more time to those pitfalls
3. Change study approaches
4. Utilise previous exam papers for practice
5. Regular revision is key
6. Set realistic goals, stay motivated
7. Have a balanced plan to avoid burnout
8. Practise time management during preparation and exam attempts

NUMBERS DO THE TALKING

Over the years, the number of students who appear for and clear the Foundation exam has grown. Here is the table to simplify the statistical data collected from ICAI

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023 SESSION
Exam dates: December 31, January 2, 4, and 6, 2023
Total candidates appeared: 1,37,153
Male: 71,966 | Female: 65,187
Candidates passed: 41,132
21,728 Male | 19,404 Female
Overall pass percentage: 29.99%
Male pass percentage: 30.19%
Female pass percentage: 29.77%

JUNE 2023 SESSION
Exam dates: June 24, 26, 28 and 30, 2023
Total candidates appeared: 1,03,517
Male: 55,573 | Female: 47,944
Candidates passed: 25,860
14,448 Male | 11,412 Female
Overall pass percentage: 24.98%
Male pass percentages: 25.99%
Female pass percentage: 23.80%

DECEMBER 2022 SESSION
Exam dates: December 14, 16, 18 and 20, 2022
Total candidates appeared: 1,26,015
Male: 68,294 | Female: 57,721
Candidates passed: 36,864
20,195 Male | 16,669 Female
Overall pass percentage: 29.26%
Male pass percentages: 29.57%
Female pass percentage: 28.88%

JUNE 2022 SESSION
Exam dates: June 24, 26, 28, and June 30, 2022
Total candidates appeared: 93,729
Male: 51,111 | Female: 42,618
Candidates passed: 23,693
13,043 Male | 10,650 Female
Overall pass percentage: 24.98% | 25.28%
Male pass percentages: 25.99% | 25.52%
Female pass percentage: 23.80% | 24.99%

DECEMBER 2021 SESSION
Exam dates: December 13, 15, 17 and 19, 2021
Total candidates appeared: 1,10,662
Male: 60,097 | Female: 50,565
Candidates passed: 33,510
18,151 Male | 15,359 Female
Overall pass percentage: 30.28%
Male pass percentage: 30.20%
Female pass percentage: 30.37%

JUNE 2021 SESSION
Exam dates: June 24, 26, 28 and 30, 2021
Total candidates appeared: 71,967
Male: 38,917 | Female: 33,050
Candidates passed: 19,158
10,150 Male | 9,008 Female
Overall pass percentage: 26.62%
Male pass percentage: 26.08%
Female pass percentage: 27.26%

BOOK NOOK

The Penguin Book of Korean Short Stories

Edited by Bruce Fulton

Journeying through Korea's twentieth century, from the Japanese occupation and colonial era to the war between North and South and the rapid, disorienting urbanisation of later decades, this book captures Korea's short-story tradition.

The Naga Warriors

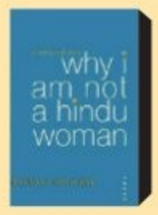
By Akshat Gupta

In this first part of the series, which is set against the backdrop of 1757, the story unfolds as 111 sadhus, led by the fearless Ajaa, confront a formidable Afghan army to safeguard the temples of Gokul.

The Collectors' Chughtai Her Choicest Stories

Translated by Tahira Naqvi

Here, we move through the chawls, havelis, mosques, and villages of India, meeting characters from all classes of society. Chughtai exposes the hypocrisies of a society with a progressive façade that is still caught in the binds of conservative opinion and traditional values.



Why I am not a Hindu Woman

By Wandana Sonalkar

In a critique of Hindutva and Hinduism, Wandana Sonalkar outlines why she, born female and upper caste, has repudiated her religious identity. This is a layered political account that weaves personal and public histories.

EDGY AND STYLISH

A student of Pearl Academy, a fashion institute, showcases her collection at Portfolio 2024, an annual marquee event | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

I have a three-year-old healthy rabbit, but I am unsure if I should get him vaccinated?

ASK AN XPERT

The vaccination of rabbits is dependent on their age, maternal immunity, and vaccine availability. Although government regulation clearly states the requirement of myxomatosis and rabbit hemorrhagic disease vaccinations, their availability has always been a concern.

Deworming is the other prophylactic protocol that you must follow if you keep rabbits at home.

A general rule of thumb while rearing rabbits is to avoid using random human prescription drugs, as they can be toxic to rabbits. As far as the prevention of such viral diseases is concerned, it's highly recommended that, if you have vaccines available, you get your rabbits vaccinated.

FITBIT

SALABHASANA ARMS RAISED

(LOCUST POSE ARMS RAISED)

This is a beginner-level prone pose. It is a variation of Salabhasana (Locust Pose), which is also an intermediate pose. The Sanskrit name Shalabhasana is derived from the word 'shalabh', which means grasshopper, and 'asana' meaning posture. This asana strengthens the pelvic organs. It is very important to know the right alignment of the body to avoid any kind of injury and to attain the maximum benefits of it. It may look like a simple asana, but it may feel quite challenging for beginners.

STEPS

- Align yourself to Advasana (Reverse Corpse Pose) while keeping the body relaxed.
- Stay here for a couple of breaths with the forehead rested on the mat.
- Then, bring your legs closer.
- Make sure that the lower body from the pelvic area and upper abdomen are placed on the mat.
- Inhale and lift the torso and chin from the floor, keeping the head engaged. Extend your arms forward and exhale.
- Stay in the pose as per your capacity. The breath will be short due to chest constriction, but breath awareness will help the practitioner stay in the pose. There might be a tendency to hold your breath in this pose, which the practitioner should avoid.
- Ensure that the extended arms are kept parallel to each other.
- Finally, you can release the pose slowly, come back to Makarasana (Crocodile Pose), and relax.

BENEFITS

- This asana helps in controlling diabetes.
- Aids in relieving constipation.
- Women with ovaries and uterine disorders can benefit from this pose.
- Increases the flexibility of the back muscles and spine.
- Strengthens the lower shoulders and neck muscles.
- Stretches the quadriceps, shin muscles, and foot muscles.
- Helps in strengthening the knees, hamstrings, and calf muscles.
- This asana tones the outer thighs, hips, and glutes.
- Prepares the body for more challenging core strength poses.
- Regular practice of this pose corrects the overall body posture.
- Enhances the energy flow and allows a smooth flow of prana.
- Stimulates the digestive system and the thyroid glands.
- Strengthens the lumbar spine.
- Enhances the blood circulation evenly to the whole body.
- This asana balances the thyroxine production.
- Postnatal women should do this after the initial four weeks of gaining physical strength and resting the lower back.
- Beneficial for swimmers, athletes, and intermediate-level practitioners.

LIMITATIONS

- People with injuries to knees, ankle, or shoulder, have undergone spinal, abdominal, ankle, or knee surgeries recently undergone bypass surgery or angioplasty, are suffering from anxiety, mild depression, heart-related ailments, migraines, dizziness, vertigo issues, common digestive problems, stomach ulcer, colitis, hernia or lumbar spondylosis, and thyroid related issues, senior citizens, and pregnant women, avoid this pose.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

QUICKFIX

WHITE BEAN AND SARDINE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- **White beans:** 2 cups
- **Sardines:** From a can packed in olive oil
- **Tomato:** 1 red or yellow cherry tomato
- **Onion:** 1, finely sliced
- **For the dressing:** 1 tsp each of Dijon mustard, lime juice, olive oil, garlic diced, and pepper powder

METHOD

- Boil the beans.
- In a big bowl, add the rest of the ingredients.
- Add the dressing to the bowl and give it a good mix.
- Add spinach, kale, or arugula salad leaves if you want.

Contributed by **Celia Gomes**, Delhi

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@express_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Handicraft Delight

Immerse yourself in the magic of Indian crafts as the Dastkar Bazaar returns with over 160 craft groups showcasing textiles, jewellery, home decor and more.

WHEN: May 21, 10.30 am
WHERE: Jayamahal Palace Hotel, Jayamahal Road
DETAILS: dastkar.org

Travellers' Tales

Calling all travel enthusiasts for an evening of swapping stories and sharing their adventures. Join this solo travellers meetup to find inspiration, travel tips, and maybe even your next travel buddy!

WHEN: May 21, 7pm **WHERE:** Small World ST Bed, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Sustainable Decor

Want to upcycle old bottles into gorgeous decor? Join this bottle decoupage workshop to create beautiful art pieces with simple materials and techniques.

WHEN: May 21, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Science Playground

Explore a new dimension of interactive exhibits and experiences that redefine entertainment and ignite a passion for science at this science experience centre.

WHEN: May 21, 10am
WHERE: PARSEC, Jayanagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Theatre Time

Watch *Turnaround*, a sassy corporate satire, directed by Prakash Belawadi, that throws you into the fight between a principled AI expert and the system. Buckle up for a hilarious ride that exposes the truth behind the corporate culture.

WHEN: May 21, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Creative Liberation

Unleash your inner artist and explore creativity with this theatre workshop, from breaking free of inhibitions to improvisation techniques.

WHEN: May 21, 11.30am
WHERE: YoursTruly Theatre, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Raga Remedies

Join this music therapy session using traditional Indian ragas to enhance your physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being. Discover how these ancient melodic modes can evoke specific psychological responses and promote healing.

WHEN: May 20, 5pm
WHERE: Sugar.fit Diabetes Reversal Centre, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Join the Jam

Calling all music lovers for an unforgettable evening of jamming, singing, and connecting through the power of music! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a shower singer, all are welcome in this jam session.

WHEN: May 22, 8pm
WHERE: House of Stories, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Artist Valay Gada's artwork reflects his feelings of uncertainty, transformed by time and reflection into hope and resurgence

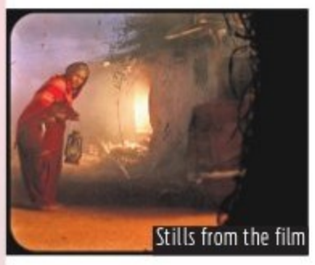
THAT SUR'REEL' FEELING

It's a proud moment for doctor-turned-filmmaker Chidananda Naik whose Kannada short film *Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know* will be screened at the Cannes Film Festival under the La Cinef section

MONIKA MONALISA

'SURREAL' is probably the feeling that filmmaker **Chidananda Naik** would use to describe his experience at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, but Naik coyly says it's more than that. Of course, it's not every day that you get to see the iconic Meryl Streep, who was honoured with the prestigious Honorary Palme d'Or, walking the red carpet.

Naik's Kannada short film *Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know* has been chosen to be screened under the La Cinef section. The depth of this selection is understood when you realise it is one of 18 films, which was selected out of 2,623 submissions across the globe. The short film is based on a popular Kannada folklore of an elderly woman stealing a rooster after which the sun does not rise. "The idea of the story itself was interesting and our team couldn't stop thinking about it. We wanted to understand what memories of such stories meant to people, and that's where the inspiration came from," says Naik, adding that it is interesting not only for people outside Karnataka but also for people from the state who are familiar with the story.



Stills from the film

Naik, the writer and director of the film, studied at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). A proud Kannadiga, he always wanted to make a local-language film. And the dream seems to have come true now as his film is making the right noises on foreign shores. "I don't make films to achieve something, I never look at movies that way. My films are a way of expressing things around me. I love watching films in Cannes, especially Palm d'Or movies. This is the place for every filmmaker and every cinephile to be, and I am so proud to bring a Kannada film here," says Naik, who joined FTII for a TV course after completing MBBS from Mysore Medical College.

Currently known for his short films, Naik wants to explore Kannada commercial films. "I am working on my debut right now. Even though mine is the first film to be on the official selection list, the Kannada film industry has always been global. All eyes are on us now," says Naik, whose film is going to be screened on May 21.

Wishing to try out different genres, Naik does not want to restrict himself to any single movie genre. "Now, there's a blend between genres. We need to tell new and fresh narratives, that's what audiences are looking for. I would like to pitch my script to all the actors here, if they love the story or characters, it would open up a great collaboration," he signs off on a call from Cannes.

Smita Kalki rescuing a snake

Hiss-tory and the future

This mother-son duo is pulling out all stops to conserve snakes and increase awareness about their importance

POOJA DAS

GROWING up in India, you might have come across either or both of these representations of snakes – one is the picture of a shapeshifting Naagin (snake), often plotting some deadly revenge or peacefully nestled on the shoulders of Lord Shiva. Perhaps, someone who was not prepared to face this dichotomy head on was Smita Kalki after moving to Bengaluru from the United States of America. "When we came back to the city – to Whitefield, in our area, there were snakes spotted almost every other day, and as any innate human being would do, the reaction was to get scared and kill it at sight," recalls Smita, a Bharatnatyam dancer by profession.

The prevalent reaction of fear and aggression towards these snakes sparked curiosity and concern in Smita's son Yatin who was only a teenager at that time. "He was full of questions for me where he said, 'You have always been representing snakes, in your mythological dances – as either Vishnu who reclines on a snake or Shiva who has a snake as an ornament around his neck – so when snakes are being worshipped, why is there this kind of hypocrisy where you kill it at sight?'," shares Smita. Sharing one such incident that made a deep impression, Yatin says, "I remember I found a vine snake sitting on a plant at the age of 12. I excitedly called my grandma to see the snake, but she called a security guard who killed the snake in front of us and it really upset me."

Yatin Kalki with a rescued rat snake

Today, Yatin is a well known wildlife-biologist, who has worked with the renowned American-born Indian conservationist, Romulus Whitaker, also known as the 'snakeman of India'. But he started rescuing snakes in his locality at an early age of 16. "I practised snake handling with the harmless Rat Snakes and Keelbacks, and then moved on to handling Cobras and Vipers. Through my snake rescues and regular snake awareness sessions, the community slowly stopped killing snakes and changed their outlook on snakes," says Yatin.

Despite the awareness programmes, misconceptions still persist, points out Yatin. "The biggest challenge is changing peoples' perspectives and getting them to care about snakes. India is the country with the most snakebite deaths, accounting for over half of them globally, so people are understandably scared. Educating people about snakes, dispelling their myths and superstitions, and teaching them what to do if they see a snake or if a snake bites them is incredibly important," he explains, with Smita adding, "We've encroached on their property. They used to live here once and it's very important that we respect them for what they are and try to coexist peacefully."

CITY READ

Limited-edition pizza promises blend of sweet and savoury

Nomad Pizza, Indiranagar, has introduced a limited edition pizza, blending sweet and savoury with their mango and ham pizza, where mango slices are complemented by the salty flavour of ham. The pizza will be available throughout the season from 11am to 11pm.

Two-day dance festival held

Bharata Kala Grama Gurukulam hosted Nritya Vasantham 2024, a two-day celebration of Indian classical dance on May 17 and 18 at Shukra Auditorium, Malleswaram. Curated by Vasanth Kiran, the festival featured competitions, performances, and an award ceremony led by chief guest Manju Bhargavi, a renowned Indian film star and Kuchipudi dancer, who presented awards the to Padmabhushan Alarmel Valli and Vedantam Ramalinga Sastry.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUBRAMANYA HOLENARASIPUR RUDRASWAMY, Flat No.A1004, 10th Floor, Brigade Omega, "A" Block, Segment -1, 80 Feet Road, BSK 6th Stage, Bangalore - 560061, also known as SUBRAMANYA H.R, my initials "H" & "R" are expanded as SUBRAMANYA HOLENARASIPUR RUDRASWAMY, both the names SUBRAMANYA HOLENARASIPUR RUDRASWAMY and SUBRAMANYA H.R refers to one and the same person i.e.myself and also my father name RUDRASWAMY H.C. initials expanded as RUDRASWAMY HOLENARASIPUR CHANNAPPA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B VIDYA NATARAJ, W/o.B Y Nataraju, residing at No.34, Mythri Enclave, Flat No.02, 5th Cross, KEB 2nd Main Road, Near Rameshwara Temple, Ittamadu, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, Karnataka, have changed my name to **VIDHYA NATARAJ** Affidavit dated 18.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary Mamatha .N.K, Bangalore

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Usha S. W/o Paneesh S.** Aged about 38 years, resident at No.491, 4 Tower DSR Waterscape Apartment, Margondanahalli Main Road, Channasandra, Kalkere, Bengaluru-560043,Karnataka, have Changed My name to **USHAPANEESH S.** vide affidavit date 17.05.2024 before Advocate & Notary S.V. Sudhamani, Tumkur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RESHMA BANU** W/o **Sharfuddin Mohiddin Kalander** R/at No.2, 2nd Floor 7th Main Road, Palace Guttahalli Malleshwaram Bengaluru-560003 have changed my name to **RESHMA** vide affidavit dated: 18/5/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRAKASH SESHACHAR**, FATHER OF MINOR SON " DHRUV R SRIVATSA" (NEW NAME) RESIDING AT NO.201, 2ND FLOOR, HOYSALA VIJAY ENCLAVE-1, KALPANA CHAWLA ROAD, SANJAYNAGAR, BENGALURU- 560094, HAVE CHANGED MYSON'S PREVIOUS NAME **"DHRUV SRIVATSA"** TO NEW NAME **"DHRUV R SRIVATSA"**, VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 16-05-2024 BEFORE THE NOTARY **SIVAKUMARA M.N**, MAYO HALL COURT, BENGALURU, FOR ALL OFFICIAL AND LEGAL PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY FOR EDUCATION AND PASSPORT PURPOSE.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SURESH KUMAR**, S/o Arokia Swamy, R/at No.30, 1st Floor,Bazaar Street, Vannarpet, Vivek Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to **A VELA SURESH KUMAR**, vide affidavit dated: 18.05.2024, before Notary **C.V Earappa**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Ashwini Anand Singh** S/o Dilip Kumar Singh, aged about 39 years residing at Candeur Landmark C-401, Golden Gate Block, 4th floor, Vurthur Road, Opposite Gunjur Bus Stop, Gunjur,: Gunjur, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka, PIN Code: 560087, have changed my name from **Ashwini Anand** to **Ashwini Anand Singh,** vide affidavit dated 17/5/2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai advocate and notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SULLEKODI POOVAIAH JANSHI**, W/o Late Ramalingaiah .C, Aged 43 years, Residing at # 14, 3rd Cross, Vidyaranyapura, Near Sambrama Engineering College, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 097, do hereby declare that, my husband Ramalingaiah was already demised on 04.11.2012, after that I have re-married to **JEETHU .B.S.** on 08-06-2016. I have already one daughter namely **SRISTI,** aged about 15 Years, now I like to mention my 2nd married husband name to be added in my daughter education documents and in all other documents mentioned as **SRISTI .B.J.** vide affidavit dated 17.05.2024 sworn to before V. Rangaraju, Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHANKUMARA JAVARANAHALLI SUBRAHMANYAM** R/at No.80, G R Sun Vilas Beside Prestige Tranquility, Nimbekaipura, Mandur Post Bangalore -560049 have changed my name to **MOHAN KUMAR JAVARANAHALLI SUBRAMANYAM** vide affidavit dated: 18/5/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHARFUDDIN MOHIDDIN** S/o **Shirva Mohiddin Kalander** R/at No.2, 2nd Floor 7th Main Road, Palace Guttahalli Malleshwaram Bengaluru-560003 have changed my name to **SHARFUDDIN MOHIDDIN KALANDER** also known as **SHARFUDDIN M KALANDER** vide affidavit dated: 18/5/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ABDUL FAZIL**, S/o Abdul Rahaman, R/at 75, 12th Cross, 14th main, CQAL layout, Sahakarnagar, Bangalore-560092, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ABDUL FAZIL RAHAMAN** (Old name) to **ABDUL FAZIL** (New name) henceforth I shall be known and called as **ABDUL FAZIL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15th May 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SIVAKUMARA .M.N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **REVATHI S.R**, aged about 47 years, D/o Sri. P. G Aswatha Narayana Setty, R/at No.408, B - Block, Apsara Gold Apartment, 5th Cross, 8th Main, Akshyanagar West, Bangalore- 560068.

have Changed my name from **"REVATHI .S.R" to "REVATHI .A"** Vide affidavit Dated:**14-05-2024**, sworn to before Notary **M.S.Satish**, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MADHURA RISHIT SALIAN,** aged about 29 years, daughter of Late Venugopal Kasargod and wife of Mr. Rishit Salian, R/a. NWA5035, DLF Westend Heights, Akshayanagar BTM ext, Bengaluru 560068, have changed my name from **MADHURA VENUGOPAL** to **MADHURA RISHIT SALIAN,** vide affidavit dated 17/5/2024 sworn to before B.M.Chandrashekar advocate and notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Kiran Malagi,** Son of Madhav .R, aged about 47 years, residing at No.103, Peony Middle Mist, K.Dommasandra, Virgo Nagar Post, Krishnarajapura, Bengaluru-49, have changed the name of my minor son from **Sanjeev Kiran Malaji** to **Sanjeev Malaji,** vide affidavit dated 17.05.2024 sworn to before R. Jyshree, Notary at Hoskote.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRAVEEN KUMAR PHOOLCHAND** S/o **Phoolchandji** aged about 65 years R/at No.497, 33rd Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011, have changed my name to **PRAVEENKUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 7/5/2024 Before Notary **Mamatha N.K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHALINGAM VATSALA** R/at No.116, 1st Main Road, Vinayakanagar, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066 have changed my name to **VATSALA MAHALINGAM** vide affidavit dated: 18/5/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KALE PREETI MALHAR RAO**, age 42 years, No. 126, 2nd Floor, 20th Main, 19th Cross, SMS Layout, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560 078 have changed my name after marriage as **PREETI SANDEEP BYSE**, vide affidavit dated 13-05-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **THIPPESWAMY .T** at Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **YOGHESHA G alias YOGESHA G** S/O GANGANNA aged about 37 years R/at No 637, 1ST Main, 6th Cross, Near Shankar Nag Bus Stand, Kamalanagara, Bengaluru 560079, have changed my name from **YOGHESHA G to YOGESHA G,** vide affidavit dated 14/5/2024 sworn to before Ratna.N advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**A. LAKSHMIDEVI** W/o Shantharaj, aged about 37 years, residing at No.445, Janatha Colony, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru-560083, I declare that below mentioned names **A.LAKSHMIDEVI and LAKSHMI.A** are one and the same and both names refers to me. vide affidavit dated 18/5/2024 sworn to before S.Vijayakumar advocate and notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **P. Subhashini**, C/o. Venkatesh, Residing at No. 70, 4th Cross, Behind Krishna Floor Mill, Hanumanthappa Colony, Bangalore North, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 020, do hereby declare that my name is mentioned as **P. Subhashini** in my Aadhaar and PAN Card, **V. Subhashini** mentioned in my Marks Card, **G.V. Subhashini** mentioned in my Bank records. In future my name is to be called as **P. Subhashini.** Vide affidavit dated 15.05.2024 sworn to before L. Shankaranarayana, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHYLAJA PRABHAKAR L,** W/o Late. B. C. Prabhakar, aged 62 years, residing at Flat No. B-901, Pride Enchanta, No. 320, Opp. BHEL Factory, Mysore Road, Ranganatha Colony, Deepanjali Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560 026, hereby declare that my names **SHYLAJA PRABHAKAR L and SHYLAJA LINGAIAH** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **SHYLAJA PRABHAKAR L** vide affidavit dated 18-05-2024 sworn to before notary Deepa .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. PADMA JAYATHIRTH** W/o Late Jayathirth, R/at No185, Sri. Venkatadri Nilaya, CQAL Layout, 60 Feet Road, C Block, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru - 560092, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PADMAVATI ANNIGERI** to **PADMA JAYATHIRTH**, vide affidavit dated 18.05.2024 sworn before Notary **K.V.Nanjaiah**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRATHAPA P M, S/o Krishna Settigara, Age about 29 years, Residing at: Padma Prasad Samagarabettu, Mudradi Post, Mudradi, Udupi-576112, Karnataka,** have changed my name to **PRATHAP P M** Affidavit dated 18.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mahaveer Bafna** (old name) S/o Nathmalji aged about 48 years R/a No.8. New No.2, 3rd Floor Krishan Road, Sri Shanmukha Enclave Apartment Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to **MAHAVEER KUMAR** (new name) for official purposes in future vide affidavit dt 17.05.2024 & Sworn before Notary and Advocate K.C.Gowthami, Bangalore-40

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G.RAGHAVENDRA MAIYYA** S/o late G. Vasudeva Maiya, aged about 53 years, residing at No.7/6, 5th Main, Mulkattamma Temple Road, Near Jinke Park, Rudrappaa Garden, Bangalore-560 026 have changed my name from **G.RAGHAVENDRA** to **G.RAGHAVENDRA MAIYYA** vide affidavit dated 17-05- 2024 before the Notary Puttaramaiah, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called **G.RAGHAVENDRA MAIYYA** only.

DECLARATION

I Mrs. ASHA BALRAJ, W/O Mr. Balaraju Mallegowda & D/o Sidde Gowda, residing at New No.84, Old No.1047, 1st floor, 11th main road, SS, RPC layout, Hampinagar Vijayanagar 2nd stage, Bengaluru-560104. Hereby state that in few documents, my name is mentioned as **ASHA S SIDDE GOWDA, GOWDA ASHA S SIDDE, ASHA BALARAJ, ASHA BALARAJU** and **ASHA GOWDA** belongs to one and the same person and refers to me. I further declare that my correct name is **ASHA BALRAJ** vide affidavit dated 18.05.2024 sworn before notary M.K Devika, Bangalore.

All the news. In just a click. THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

DAALI DHANANJAY IN TALKS TO HEADLINE *HALAGALI*

The director confirms the discussions and is now working on getting bulk dates from the actor

Dhananjay

SUKESH

A SHARADHAA

WE had earlier reported that actor Krishna is no longer part of the historical project *Halagali,* a big canvas film set in the pre-Independence era of 1857. In February, filming began for the project with the actor shooting for a day. However, creative differences and the requirement for a two-year commitment from the actor led to his departure. The director of *Halagali,* Sukesh Nayak, confirmed that Krishna's exit has prompted the search for another actor to play the lead role.

The latest news is that the makers are in talks with none other than Daali Dhananjay to play the role. The director confirmed this development, saying, "We are in discussions with Dhananjay as the producer and I felt he best suits the role. In fact, Dhananjay also liked the story of *Halagali* and more so, liked the character design. Discussions are underway, and decisions will be made depending on the bulk availability of Dhananjay's dates. Once this is settled, the production house will finalise the decision." It remains to be seen whether the team can secure Dhananjay for *Halagali*. The film has Vasuki Vaibhav scoring the music.

Currently, Dhananjay is awaiting the release of *Kotee* on June 14. He is also simultaneously working on two projects, *Uttarakaanda* and *Anna from Mexico*. He also has his multilingual film *Pushpa 2,* in which he has a prominent role, hitting theatres in August.

I am happy to take on a different genre with *Bank of Bhagyalakshmi*: Dheekshith Shetty

CE FEATURES

BANK of Bhagyalakshmi (BOB), helmed by first-time filmmaker Abhishek initially featured Ajay Rao in the lead. However, the latest poster from the team reveals that the actor has been replaced by Dheekshith Shetty, known for his roles in *Dia, KTM,* and *Blink*. "Having completed ninety per cent of the shooting in a 50-day schedule, I am now waiting to complete the climax portions," says Dheekshith, for whom this will be a bilingual film made and released in Kannada and Telugu.

"Having been part of love dramas and science fiction, I am happy to take on a different genre. *BOB* is a comedy crime thriller, a very interesting genre," says Dheekshith as the makers share the first look poster with *CE*.

Abhishek has previously worked as an assistant director to Simple Suni on movies like *Simple Agi Ondh Love Story, Bahuparak*, and *Operation Alamelamma*. He has also worked as an editor for several films and owns a VFX studio.

BOB, produced by H K Prakash, who has previously bankrolled *Rangi Taranga,* features Brinda Acharya as the female lead. The rest of the cast includes Sadhu Kokila, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Usha Bhandari, Bharat, Vishwanath, Harish Samashti, Ashwin Rao Pallakki, Shreyas Sharma, Shri Vatsa, and Vinuth. The film is a heist comedy revolving around a bank robbery. *BOB* has music by Judah Sandy, cinematography by Abhishek G. Kasargod, art direction by Raghu Mysore, and dance choreography by Bhushan Master. Dheekshith, who is juggling between different languages, also has a Malayalam film, *Oppæs,* which is currently in production. "I have begun shooting for *KJQ,* a Telugu film, which is produced by the makers of *Dasara*, and I have another project announced in that language, for which I will begin filming soon," he says.

MEGHANA GAONKAR SHARES HER EXCITEMENT FOR HER UPCOMING FILM AND HER EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THE CRAZY STAR IN THE GURURAJ KULKARNI DIRECTORIAL

A still from the film

'Working with Ravichandran in *The Judgement* is a dream half-fulfilled'

CE FEATURES

LANDING a role opposite the Crazy Star Ravichandran is a dream for many Kannada actors. For Meghana Gaonkar, it was a complete surprise. Never expecting such an opportunity, she found herself cast in *The Judgement*, a gripping courtroom thriller by Gururaj Kulkarni. In the film, Meghana takes on a mature character as Ravichandran's wife, a role that is an unexpected addition to her burgeoning career.

"I was presented with the opportunity just 2 days before the film went on floors. Generally, I take some time to decide whether or not to take a role, but in this case, I didn't think twice," Meghana shares excitedly. "I play a significant role, Ravi Sir's wife. At first, I saw this role as something for my future, but then thought, why wait? When the offer came, I was beyond thrilled about the prospect of working with him."

Growing up, Meghana, just like everyone else in the audience, was captivated by Ravichandran's films. "*Ramachari* is one of my favourite films with commendable performances by Malashree and Ravichandran. His film *Ranadheera*, is another cherished memory from childhood, especially the flute tune. And of course, there's *Premaloka*, a classic we always adore."

Ravichandran, known for his straightforward and unfiltered personality, left a strong impression on Meghana. "When I entered the industry, I was told he is naughty, frank, and without a filter. But when I worked with him, I saw how respectful he is. On seeing his passion for cinema, my respect for him only increased. I was in awe," she explains.

Despite the joy of working with Ravichandran, Meghana felt a twinge of disappointment. "We shot a song sequence, but it didn't make the final cut. Ravichandran is known for his iconic songs, and I feel my pairing is incomplete without one. It's like half my wish is fulfilled. I am confident I will do another film with him and complete that dream."

In *The Judgement,* Meghana's character, Rohini, is a college professor and a columnist who plays a crucial role in influencing her husband's opinion. "The film intertwines a court thriller with family dynamics. Rohini, my character, balances the male ego and subtly conveys powerful messages," she describes.

When choosing a project, Meghana prioritises a few factors: the story, the star cast and her role, the team making the film, and the remuneration. "I like picking films that pay me well, and all of it worked for me in *The Judgement*. Even though I didn't get a lot of screen time, the role was substantial, and being paired opposite Ravichandran was the icing on the cake," she says.

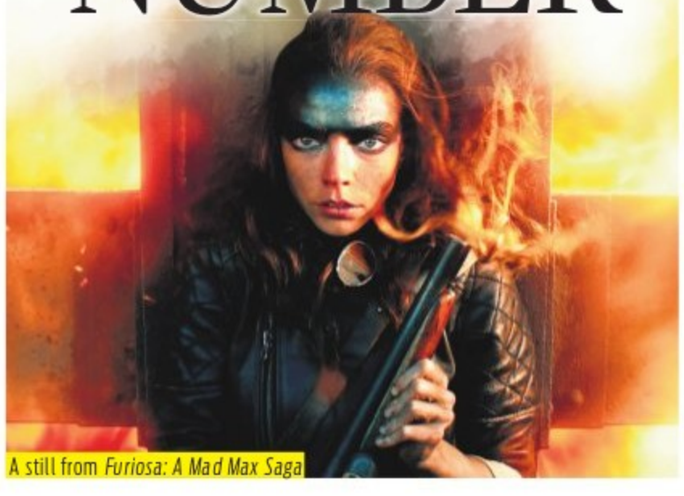
The Judgement also features Diganth in a leading role, with Dhanya Ramkumar and Lakshmi Gopalaswamy essaying pivotal characters. With music by Anoop Seelin, dialogues by MS Ramesh, and cinematography by PKH Dass, the film promises to be well-rounded.

Meghana Gaonkar

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

NAMRATA JOSHI

MY favourite moment in George Miller's *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*—the origin story of Furiosa—is a rather anomalous, tender one, on a tangent from the unrelenting, adrenaline-pumping action that otherwise defines the post-apocalyptic *Mad Max* universe spread over five films and 45 years now. It's in the chapter called The Stowaway, when Praetorian Jack (Tom Burke) asks Furiosa (Anya Taylor-Joy): "Where do you think you are going?" He wants to journey along to eventually help her reach her destination, i.e., her home in Green Place of Many Mothers. There's something incredibly romantic about their unplanned alliance that grows, evolves, and matures throughout the film. You want them to stay as a team to get past the Wasteland even while you want to see Furiosa eventually get home from where she had been abducted as a child by the Biker Horde headed by Dementus (Chris Hemsworth).



A still from *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*

The prequel to the brilliant *Mad Max, Fury Road* (2015), starts out spectacularly. However, while it has you in its grip initially, it gradually loses its way amid marauding tribes, lynch mobs and innumerable chases through the dunes on bikes and other souped-up vehicles. There are moments that take your breath away but don't add up to pack in a wallop.

However, the newest addition to "Western on wheels", as someone chose to describe the *Mad Max* franchise to Miller, does still show the about-to-be-80 filmmaker on top of his game—imagining and executing the wildest and most frenzied of action set-pieces while maintaining the coherence and inner logic of the world and constantly expanding the horizon of "visual music" as he chooses to describe cinema.

Veterans are out in full strength this year at Cannes with 85-year-old Francis Ford Coppola returning to Cannes 45 years after *Apocalypse Now*. When he told Cannes about his latest film, the festival didn't bat an eyelid to put it in the competition. Only that it doesn't quite seem like a film.

There's a setting and a story—an imaginary America gone to seed, or as the film itself puts it, "the master of the known world gone kaput". It is for architect and designer Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver) usher in a change and bring it back to its glory his own way which clashes with the old worldly principles of the conservative mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito) even as his daughter Julia (Nathalie Immanuel) can't get enough of Cesar and remains caught between the two men in her life. Then there's a cast of who's who—Jon Voight, Aubrey Plaza, Shua LaBeouf, Dustine Hoffman—personifying the many facets of greed, corruption, entitlement, debauchery, and decadence.

Dedicated to his wife Eleanor, who passed away recently, *Megalopolis* is like a stream of ideas, wisdom of old age that Coppola wants to dole out to the world, irrespective of whether it wants to listen to him or not.

CANNES XPRESS 2024

Straight from the heart of Cannes, our writer brings you updates from one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world

His intentions are quite well taken and comprehended—the critique of the "insatiable appetite for power of a few men", for instance. But most of the philosophizing gets downright corny and cringe— "When you jump into the unknown, you prove yourself free", "Only two things are difficult to stare at for long, the sun and your own soul". On top of it all these ideas remain scattered and fragmented, and the film doesn't manage to knit them into a cohesive whole.

Speaking of senior citizen legends in Cannes this year, there's also 77-year-old Paul Schrader's *Oh Canada* in which he reunites with his *American Gigolo* star Richard Gere. Adapted from a novel by Russell Banks, the film is about a filmmaker, Leonard (Gere) on his deathbed, sharing his life, memories, secrets and confidences on film with one of his students, and in the presence of his wife Emma (Uma Thurman), it aims to ground the eternal disjunct between the man and the artiste, his life as opposed to the art. There is the added layer of being an immigrant in Canada. But all of it gets treated in too broad and basic a manner, while the high-voltage stars seem curiously inert and disinterested. An emotionally parched film that leaves one utterly unmoved.